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THE

MONUMENTAL BRASSES

OF

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PERSONS REPRESENTED.

(Illustrated with Engravings from Drawings by the Author.)

BY

JAMES L. THORNELY.

"Etenim si defunctorum imagines domi positae dolorem nostrum levant, quanto magis hae, quibus in celeberrimo loco non modo species et vultus illorum, sed honor etiam et gloria refertur."—*Plinius Minor*, Ep. ii., 7.

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Preface.

THIS little volume is an attempt to do, for the Counties Palatine of Lancaster and Chester, what has already been done for many other Counties by those who have lived in them, venerated their antiquities, and had their reputation at heart.

It represents a course of pleasant labours, a series of happy pilgrimages to many an ancient church, and hours of leisure spent in sweet communings with a stately past. The scope and object of the book will probably be sufficiently apparent in the following pages; its tentative character, and, it must be added, its many shortcomings, can scarcely fail to be so.

The author's best thanks for assistance, most kindly and generously accorded, are due to the Revs. J. H. Acheson, L. R. Ayre, C. G. R. Birch, A. Brown, E. Hoskin, R. H. Morris, G. W. Ninis, and C. A. Stolterforth, and to

Messrs. James Bromley, George Esdaile, T. N. Morton, F. Musker, T. Harrison Myres, R. D. Radcliffe, J. Paul Rylands, J. A. Spooner, and W. S. Weeks.

The Plates which illustrate this volume are reproduced from pen-and-ink drawings made by the author from "rubbings," most of which were taken by himself, but a few of which were kindly made for him by friends, or lent to him from their collections.

LIVERPOOL, *Dec. 1st, 1892.*

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A History of Monumental Brasses 1

THE MONUMENTAL BRASSES OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

A History of Monumental Brasses.

THE increasing favour which monumental brasses now find in the eyes of the public is very largely due to the discovery of a means by which they may with comparative ease be reproduced in facsimile, and a permanent copy of the brass thus obtained.

The pioneer to the excellent system of copying brasses now in vogue was Craven Ord, who about the year 1780 formed a valuable collection (now in the British Museum) of impressions taken on paper by filling the incised lines of the brasses with printer's ink. Besides the great trouble and care required in carrying out this process, it presented the further objection that the effigy was reversed in the copy. Not long afterwards, however, the heel-ball process was

introduced. A large sheet of rather thin paper is laid over the brass, and a piece of shoemaker's heel-ball rubbed upon it. The result is a perfect facsimile of the brass, the main surface being a glossy black (which does not rub off), while the incised lines remain white.

The reasons which led to the introduction of brasses in competition with the older monuments of sculptured stone were their greater durability, their comparative cheapness, and the small amount of space which they occupied.

It is almost exclusively in England that these monuments are to be met with; and this is the more noteworthy as the metal employed was chiefly imported from abroad.

Thus a few are to be met with in Belgium, France, Germany, and Spain; a very few in Wales, and one or two in Scotland and Ireland. In England, on the other hand, the number of existing brasses was computed in the "Oxford Manual of Brasses" (published in 1848) at about four thousand, "and traces of as many more, which are now destroyed, may be found." These statistics show at once the importance of this class of monuments among the sepulchral memorials of our country. The south of England is by far the

richest in brasses, and the south-eastern counties pre-eminently so. Norfolk, Suffolk, Sussex, Kent, Oxford, and Surrey abound in these splendid relics, but their numbers diminish as one travels north and west. Lancashire and Cheshire, comparatively speaking, are barren in this respect, —only less so, perhaps, than the counties further north. The reasons which have been assigned for this concentration of monumental luxuriance in certain regions are numerous: some are of the opinion that brasses abound mostly in parts where a trade with Flanders was kept up; others attribute their use to the scarcity of stone for monumental purposes in certain neighbourhoods; others again think that the question is influenced by the comparative wealth and refinement of the inhabitants of the various counties: but the best general and broadly applicable reason seems to be that the northern and western parts of the kingdom were far less densely populated than the southern and the eastern.

"The metal employed," says Mr. Boutell ("Monumental Brasses and Slabs,") "in constructing the engravings was denominated *latten*, *laten*, or *laton*, and appears to have been a compound somewhat resembling brass, but more

costly and far more durable than that alloy." It was made principally in Flanders and Germany, and especially at the city of Cologne. In cases where it was wished to portray the colours of the robes worn, especially where heraldic blazonry was represented, portions of the surface of the brass were enamelled in colours, and sometimes it was inlaid with different metal. It is thought that the incised lines were originally filled with pitch or composition of some kind. It should be clearly borne in mind that the monumental brass was originally a substitute for, and was copied from, the recumbent effigy of carved stone. Consequently the brass figure represented a person lying supine, very often with his head (if a knight) upon a helmet or cushion, and his feet upon a lion or hound, as in the stone monuments. It is not until the art has greatly declined that this primary idea is lost sight of, and the person is represented as standing upon the ground. The transition from one idea to the other is well illustrated in the Scarisbrick brass engraved in this volume.

Mr. Boutell has divided these monuments into four classes,—military, ecclesiastical, civil, and miscellaneous. Of these divisions, the first is of

much the most frequent occurrence. Beginning with the thirteenth century, we have an uninterrupted series of handsomely accoutred knights down to nearly the close of the seventeenth, exhibiting all the changes and improvements, and illustrating the gradual transition from mail or chain to plate armour, which took place within that period. Under the second division, our churches and cathedrals exhibit a long line of ecclesiastics, attired in all the pomp and splendour of the Roman Church. Thirdly, there are the civilians and their wives, together with the ladies of the knights and barons themselves. Under the head of "miscellaneous," Mr. Boutell groups all such monumental brasses as are not included within the preceding classes, and they comprise many curious designs, including a great variety of crosses of rare elegance and beauty.

The earliest brass extant is that of Sir John D'Aubernoun, at Stoke d'Abernon in Surrey, dated 1277; but our records tell us of earlier examples having once existed. The latest—or about the latest—is dated 1776. In our own day even, to a limited extent, the brass holds a place among our monuments, but it is as a revival, not

a continuation, of the mediæval art. Many of the earlier examples in this country are of Flemish design, and are easily distinguished by their great elaboration of ornament, their size, and certain other characteristics. There are a few other points to be noted with regard to monumental brasses in general.

The earlier specimens were remarkable for boldness and vigour of design; the darker folds of drapery, etc., were indicated by deep and wide lines, while narrower lines represented the lighter folds. At a later period the broad lines were dispensed with, and the effect of shadow produced by cross-shading along the folds.

This treatment was extremely effective until carried to an extreme: the later examples are marred by a multiplicity of small cross-lines, and lose much both in boldness of outline and general breadth of effect.

Not the least beautiful feature of these ancient monuments is the canopy or tabernacle which is in many cases introduced above the head of the figure, and rests on slender columns. Shields of arms are frequently among the accessories of the monument, and a quadrangular strip of brass usually surrounds the whole design, and not

infrequently the symbols of the four Evangelists occupy the corners. On this strip of brass the name of the deceased and the date of his death are inscribed, and occasionally a scroll bearing some pious prayer or ejaculation is placed above the head of the effigy. Who would not prefer the humility which finds expression in the brief appeal: "Fili Dei miserere mei," which is to be found on many an old-world brass, to the fulsome eulogistic epitaphs of a later, and a *ci-devant* less superstitious and more civilised age!

Mr Boutell has in no wise overrated the importance and value of monumental brasses. "To the genealogist," he says, "they afford authentic contemporary evidences; to the herald they furnish examples of the original usage in bearing arms, and authorities in the appropriation and adjustment of badges and personal devices; the architect here will find, in rich variety, the details and accessories illustrative as well of peculiar modes of arrangement and combination as of the distinctive characteristics of style and design; the chronologist hence may deduce authentic data to determine, with truly remarkable exactness, successive eras and epochs: the artist has before him original compositions, illustrating

the early excellence, and then the progressive, though happily only temporary, decline in the art of such pre-eminent importance, that of incision: to the general antiquary, from the same source, widely diversified information will accrue; the palaeographer also is hence enabled to fix the distinctive form of letter used at certain periods, together with the prevalent peculiarities of construction and abbreviation, conformable for the most part to that which is found in legends depicted upon stained glass, in illuminations, or on engraved seals. Of the important judicial testimony deducible from brasses, the decision upon the Camoy peerage affords a remarkable and memorable example."

Turning our attention more especially to the Monumental Brasses of Lancashire and Cheshire, we have already seen that this portion of the kingdom is comparatively poor in memorials of this kind.

Only twenty-six examples are given in this volume, and it is thought that these comprise very nearly all that are to be found within the confines of the two palatine counties. Moreover they cover a period of only two hundred years, from 1458 to 1650,—that is to say, the latter half (and

the inferior half so far as workmanship and design are concerned), of the whole period of about five hundred years during which this class of monumental effigy is to be met with.

We Lancastrians and Cestrians can boast of no Flemish brasses; of none of those 13th century effigies of mail-clad warriors and crusaders which enrich the churches of the south; and of no examples of that lesser but beautiful and highly interesting class, the brasses of wealthy citizens, merchants, and civilians.

Yet, with these deficiencies frankly acknowledged, our small collection furnishes ample grounds for an honest and honourable pride on the part of those whose lives are spent, and whose ancestors, perchance, have lived and died in these counties. Knights, esquires, and ladies, richly attired in various styles of armour or peaceful apparel, and churchmen of different grades, from the bishop downward,—these may bear comparison with contemporary examples throughout the kingdom.

Moreover, in such instances as the brasses of Sir Peter Legh at Winwick, and Roger Legh at Macclesfield, the peculiarity of the design renders

the monument one of especial value to the antiquarian world at large.

Perhaps, however, the paramount interest which this small collection of monumental brasses yields will be found to lie in their biographical and genealogical instructiveness. To illustrate this remark it is necessary to do no more than remind the reader that the list comprehends the first Warden of the old College at Manchester; a Bishop of the House of Stanley, who was also for a time Warden of that institution; numerous warriors who were prominent in the English army which fought and won at Flodden, and in other Scottish campaigns, and whose names are mentioned in the histories of Hollinshed and others; the commander of the forces of the Parliament in Lancashire during the Civil War; representatives of many of our oldest and most honourable county families, the Molyneux, the Ashtons, the Gerards, the Leghs, the Starkys, the Booths, the Scarisbricks, and the Norrises; and a Governor of Lancaster Castle.

A word in conclusion should here be said in reference to the few monumental brasses which have *not* been included in this little work.

Firstly, there is in Flixton Church, in Lanca-

shire, a small quadrangular mural plate, representing Richard Radclyffe of Ordsall and his two wives and children in a group, attired in Elizabethan costume. It was found impossible to take a rubbing of this brass, as the incised lines were filled in with pitch or some other substance.

There was, however, little cause to regret its loss, as the monument is very poorly and inartistically designed.

At Newchurch, in Winwick, were formerly brasses to William Ratclyff and Sir John Holcroft, and the children of the former. Nothing of these remains, however, except the effigies in brass of three daughters, in dresses closely resembling those worn by Sir Richard Molyneux's wives, as represented on their brass at Sefton; and with their hands raised in prayer. The inscription, in old English letters, reads:—"Here lyeth y^e^ bodies of Willm Ratclyff late of Wylm^r^leigh and Astley in y^e^ County of Lanc^r^ Esquier, and Anne hys wyff, Daughter of S^r^ John Holcrofte knyghte, & foure of theyre chylderen, y^t^ ys to say one sone and thre doughters which Wyllm Ratclyff dyed the xv^th^ day of July in the yere of our lorde God mccccclxi, and in the thyrde yere of the reigne of Quene Elyzabeth; and also joyneing to this

lyeth the body of y^e^ sayd Syr John Holcroft, knyght, which dyed in y^e^ yere of o^r^ Lorde 1560."

In the church at Middlewich, in Cheshire, in a chapel in the north aisle, is a small quadrangular mural brass plate, which is described by Haines as representing "Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir William Brereton, and wife of Thomas Venables, Esq., Baron of Kinderton, 1591; and son Thomas, deceased, æt. eleven; and daughters Elizabeth and Mary" (wife of Richard Assheton, of Middleton, whose brass, with that of her husband, is engraved in this volume). This brass plate is very small, but so worn that the figures can scarcely be made out, and a "rubbing" of it is almost an impossibility.

Manchester Cathedral once contained numerous fine brasses, which would have greatly enhanced the value of our collection, but most of these have unfortunately been so mutilated as to leave nothing but a hint of what they once were. In the north aisle of the choir are two square brass plates with representations of Anthony Mosley and Oswald Mosley, and their wives and children respectively. Both monuments present the parents in Jacobean dress, kneeling before *prie-Dieus*, with inscriptions containing dates (25th

March, 1607, in the case of Anthony Mosley, merchant; and 9th November, 1630, in the case of Oswald Mosley, Esquire). Above are the Mosley arms. The fragmentary brasses we have mentioned consist of: (1.) A finely elaborated canopy, dating probably about the end of the fifteenth century. (2.) The fragment of the effigy of Sir John Byron (mentioned later in connection with the brass of his wife, Margaret Byron, which is nearly intact.) (3.) The figure of a knight, the substance of which is perfect, though the incised lines are so much worn as to be scarcely discernible; this is supposed to have represented Sir Alexander Radclyffe, of Ordsall, who died, aged seventy-two, in 1548. (4.) By his side is the brass of his wife, which is interesting to archæologists as an example of the *palimpsest* brass, *i.e.*, one which is engraved upon both sides, an earlier having been turned and utilised as a later effigy. In an article in the "Palatine Note-Book," for June, 1884, Mr. E. F. Letts describes this brass as follows:—"The lady is dressed in a flowing veil with scalloped edges, and the straight robes of say Henry IV. Moreover, as the lines of the engraving go beyond the present edge of the brass, it looks

as if it had been cut down. In a few minutes the brass is unscrewed from its backing of oak, and reversed, when all is made plain. The counter-side is a lady in the dress of Queen Mary's reign, with open gown-like robes, but the brass has been so rubbed away by the treading of feet, that down the centre it is worn through, and the graving is barely visible. This then is what happened: an old large brass of a lady—whether connected with the Manchester Cathedral or not it is impossible now to say,—has been cut down, engraved on the back, and made to do duty with another husband; the feet are just visible, the front of the outer robe is turned back, disclosing the long cord and tassels, to which is suspended a little mirror; the sleeves are loose at the elbows, and apparently edged with fur; the hands are raised; and, as far as can be seen, the head-dress has had bands to it."

The unhappy fate of these brasses, torn from their beds in the floor of the choir, and "carted away" to make room for those tiles so dear to the heart of the "restoring" church-warden, afford a sad commentary upon the work of the modern Vandal.

Would that the present and future generations might take the lesson to heart while yet we have any of these sacred memorials among us!

John Huntington, Warden of Manchester.

John Huntington, Warden of Manchester.

A.D. 1458.

Manchester Cathedral.

THIS simple but beautiful brass is—sad to say—almost hidden from sight in the crypt of the old Collegiate Church (now the Cathedral), the sacred edifice which in his life-time it had been the good warden's delight to build and beautify. Its former position was in the middle of the choir. The brass consists principally of the figure of John Huntington, the first warden of Manchester College. The expression of his face is tranquil and thoughtful: being a priest, he is of course closely shaven, and his locks are tonsured a-top. His hands are raised and joined in prayer; his feet are not visible beneath the amply flowing cassock. The warden is attired in processional or canonical vestments, which are met with almost exclusively in the brasses of members of collegiate bodies, in which processions would be more frequent.

It is interesting to contrast them with the

Eucharistic vestments as seen in the brasses of Bishop Stanley, Edmund Assheton, and Sir Peter Legh, knight and priest. The processional vestments, as worn by Warden Huntington, consist of the *cassock (camisia vestis)*, an undergarment reaching to the ground, with close sleeves. Over this he wears a *surplice (super pellicium)*, a robe extending to within about a foot of the ground, with very wide sleeves, and frequently plated, as in the present case; but not open in front, as in modern times. Upon his shoulders he wears an *almuce* or *amess (almutium)*, a hood of grey fur. "It appears to have been introduced about the 13th century, and in the 15th a cape and pendants were added to it." *(Oxford Manual of Brasses)*. Accordingly, in Huntington's brass we find the pendants attached to the hood. Very often, in addition to the other canonical vestments, the *cope* is worn,—a long cloak with handsome borders, and fastened by a brooch; this garment is seen in the brass of the priest at Eccleston Church (represented in this book), but the Warden of Manchester is without one.

Above the head of the effigy is a semi-circular scroll with the inscription: "Dne dilexi decor-

domus tue" ("Lord I have loved the habitation of Thy house)."

There are also the mutilated remains of a once beautiful canopy, and of a narrow border encompassing the stone, and formerly bearing the inscription:—"Hic jacet Johannes Huntington, Baccalaureus in decretis, primus magister vel custos hujus Collegii, qui novo construxit istiam cancelam, qui obiit XI° Mensis Novemb' anno Dni mill'mo ccccIviii cui' a'ie p'pitietur Deus, Amen." "Here lies John Huntington, Bachelor of Divinity, first Master or Warden of this College, who rebuilt this chancel, and who died on the 11th of the month of November, A.D. 1458, on whose soul may God have mercy, Amen."

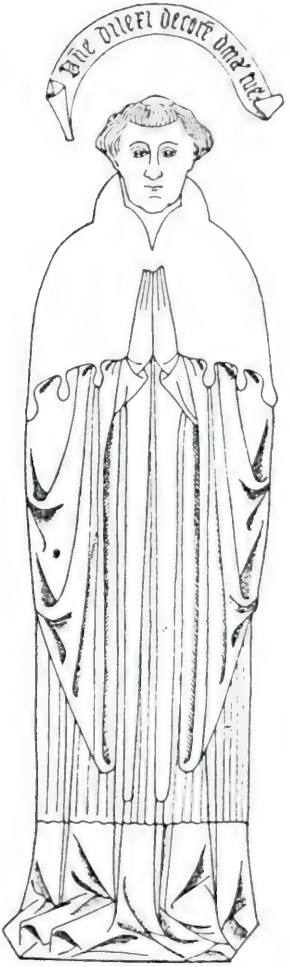
At the corners of this outer ribbon were circular pieces, probably containing the signs of the four Evangelists. In August, 1890, Mr. T. Harrison Myres, of Preston, and others, obtained permission to enter the crypt of the cathedral for the purpose of taking "rubbings" of this brass. "The figure part of the brass," says Mr. Myres, in the *Preston Chronicle* of August 23rd, 1890, "is in a good state of preservation, but loose on the slab of Purbeck marble. . . . This interesting monument was removed from its original

position in the choir about 1755, to its present place, on which occasion it is supposed the bones of the good warden and others interred before the altar were ruthlessly dug up, and scattered to the winds."

Hardly anything is known of this reverend ecclesiastic. He became first Warden of the newly-founded college in 1422. "Thomas de la Warre, the munificent contributor to the foundation of the college of Manchester, presented to William, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, John Huntington, Bachelor in Divinity, and rector of Ashton-under-Lyne, to be the first keeper or warden. The eight fellows associated with him consisted of two parish priests, two canons, and four deacons, to whom were attached four clerks and six choristers. The whole was then acknowledged as a body corporate, under the title of The Guild or Company of the Blessed Virgin in Manchester." *(History of the Foundations in Manchester, 1834.)*

That he was deemed a suitable man for the post may be inferred from his selection.

Hollingworth says that he "was allowed to possess a considerable share of the learning most in request during the times in which he lived."



1458.

JOHN HUNTINGTON, FIRST WARDEN OF MANCHESTER COLLEGE.

Manchester Cathedral.

His colleagues were John Raveald, Hugh Writhington, Thomas Whitehead, Jacob Bardisley, Roger de Parker, William Walker, and John Brown.

For want of sufficient resources it was resolved to build the collegiate church of wood. As the greater part of the funds left by Thomas, Lord de la Warre, were devoted to the college, further contributions were wanted towards building the church.

Warden Huntington, therefore, who is described as "a man of public spirit, attentive to the duties of his church, and anxious to complete and adorn it," erected at his own expense the chancel, which, like the rest of the building, was entirely of wood. The old wooden church was dedicated to SS. Mary, Denis, and George. It was afterwards replaced by a building of stone.

Huntington left his *rebus* as a memorial upon the portion of the work built by him. A *rebus* is an allusive charge or device, the representations upon which have a punning allusion to the bearer's name. Thus Abbot Islip of Westminster bore a man falling from a tree, exclaiming "I slip!" also a human *eye*, and a *slip* (small branch of a tree). John Huntington's *rebus* displays on one side of a

beam a huntsman, a dog, and a stag, to imply *hunting*; on the other, a *tun*, or cask. Rebuses ending with this syllable and device are perhaps the commonest.

Similar representations may be seen in St. Michael's Church at Ashton, said to have been founded by Warden Huntington. He died on the 11th November, 1458, having held office for thirty-seven years. He was buried in the choir, which he himself had built, immediately under the high altar, as it then stood.

In his will, dated 13th November 1454, he relates that he had lately granted by deed to James Bridde, Hugh Aston, and Nicholas Ravalde, Priests, all his messuages, lands, and rents in Manchester, Salford, and elsewhere in the county of Lancaster, and also in Chesterfield in the county of Derby, to the intent that after his death they should sell the same (except his lands at Chesterfield), and the said feoffees "shall dispose of all such money to the edificacon, expenses, costes, and byggyng of the nave worke by me begonen of the Chauncell of the Kirke of our Lady of Māchestr, if so be yat my movable godes aftr my decesse suffice noght nor bene sufficiaunte to fforme the said edificacon, costs and

byggynge." It was then provided that if there were any overplus it was to be appropriated to the support of priests to say masses, prayer, and other Divine services for the soul of the said Huntington and his friends for ever. He further provided that if his kinswoman, Elizabeth Baret was dead, or should die without issue, the lands at Chesterfield devised to her should be applied to the same purposes as his land in Lancashire. This will appears not to have been acted upon, and after a considerable time, an arbitration took place, by which, among other things, the following provision was made:—"And it is also awarded that yearly an obit or anniversary shall be kept with a Dirge after noon, and a Mass of Requiem on the morrow after, with Note for the souls of the said Sir John Huntington, his benefactors, the souls of the persons above mentioned, and all Christian souls, at the charge of the said Priest for the time being, on the 11th day of November, on which day the said Sir John Huntington died." The Bishop of Ely (whose brass is portrayed in this volume) attests the award, which is signed by the arbitrators and others. (Notes to *Notitia Cestriensis. Chetham Society's Publications, Vol. 19, pp. 59, et seq*).

"It has not been noticed that Huntington on his appointment to the Wardenship retained the Rectory of Ashton-under-Lyne for two years before he resigned it in favour of his successor. On the 22 Nov. 1424, James Skelyngton, clerk, was presented to the Rectory by Thomas, Lord de la Warre, on the resignation of John Huntington. He held the living only a few months, as the same patron again presented Warden Huntington, who was instituted 12th June 1425, on the resignation of Skelyngton, who had evidently been the wrong person for carrying on church works. Nor has it been noticed that Warden Huntington held Ashton Rectory until his death." *(Chetham Society's Publications, N.S., 1885, Vol. 5, p. 16).* An engraving of this brass, though a somewhat inaccurate one, may be found in the "History of Manchester Foundations" before alluded to.

Sir Robert del Bothe, Knight, and
Dulcia, his Wife.

Sir Robert del Bothe, Knight, and Dulcia, his Wife.

A.D. 1460.

Wilmslow, Cheshire.

IN the picturesque old church of Wilmslow, near Manchester, but situate in Cheshire, upon the floor of the chancel, lies the magnificent and ancient brass of Sir Robert del Bothe and Dulcia, or Douce, his lady.

Although the main part of the brass is in fairly good preservation, a considerable portion of its decorations has been lost, and the brass itself is worn and indented, though its lines are perfectly clear and well-defined.

The figures of Sir Robert and his wife were originally surmounted by two handsome canopies of floriated design, in the best style of Decorated architecture; of these only the canopy above the Lady Dulcia remains.

Four shields of arms formerly appeared on the brass, two at the head of the slab, and two at the foot, but a couple of these have disappeared; the

whole was surrounded by a band or strip of brass with an inscription, of which a portion only is now left.

In the year 1572, Randle Holme, the celebrated Chester herald and antiquary, visited Wilmslow, and found this brass in a perfect state: he made a rough sketch of it, which is now among the Harl. MSS., 2151, and which clearly shows what the original brass in its entirety was like.

The figures represented in the accompanying plate are thus described in the "Oxford Manual of Brasses":—

"The knight has a mentonière instead of a collar of mail; his elbow pieces and pauldrons are of equal size; the latter have each a large ridge, and under that on the right shoulder is a gusset of mail; his hands are bare, one of them grasps the hand of his lady, and the other is placed on his breast; his feet, which have rowell spurs, rest on a greyhound. The lady has long flowing hair confined by a fillet, and wears a tight-fitting kirtle and a mantle; at her feet is a dog. Both figures stand on an embattled base." "Over the head of the knight was his shield of arms, that of Booth, *Argent*, 3 boars' heads erect and erased *sable*, in chief a garb *or*; over his wife's head, that of

Fitton, *Argent* on a bend *azure*, 3 garbs *or*; at his feet that of Mascy, Quarterly *gules* and *or*, in the first quarter a lion passant *argent*; and at her feet that of Thornton, *Argent* on a bend *gules*, 3 escarbuncles *or*. Of these shields the second and third now only remain." *(Earwaker's "East Cheshire.")*

The figure of Sir Robert is almost an exact counterpart of that of John Dengayn, who died about 1460, as represented on his brass at Quy, in Cambridgeshire; almost the only points of difference being that in the latter effigy the hands are clasped, and the feet rest on a mound of earth instead of upon a couchant greyhound. *(Oxford Manual, p. 88.)*

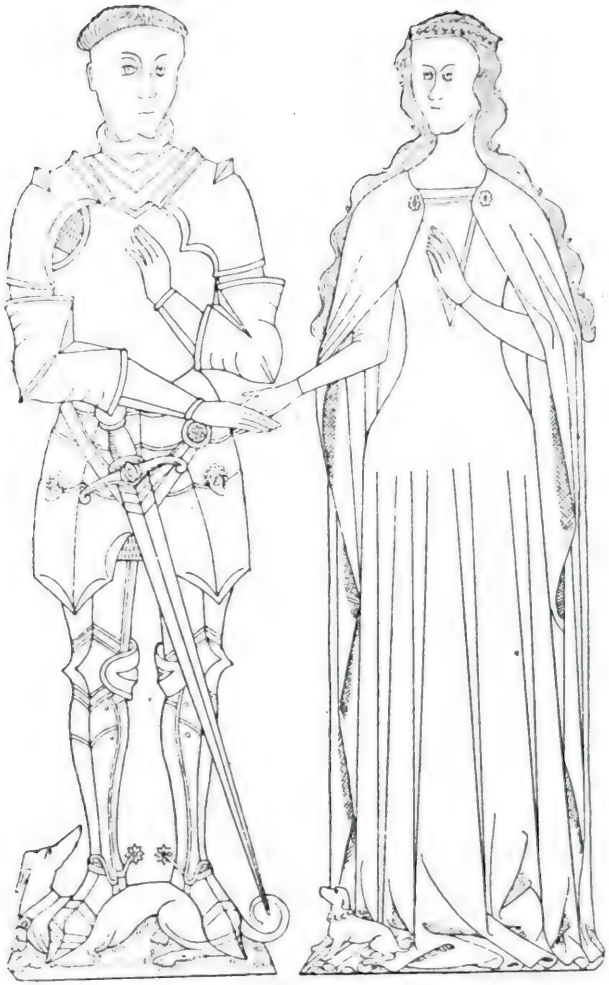
The fragment of the brass of Sir John Byron, in Manchester Cathedral, is also, so far as it goes, exactly similar to Sir Robert del Bothe's effigy, while that of his lady, represented in this book, closely resembles the figure of Dulcia. The inscription round the edges of the tomb, as restored from Holme's MS., is as follows:—

"Hic jacent corpus Rōbti del Bouthe milit' quondā dni de Bolyn, Thorneton et Dunham qui obiit in festo Scē Edithe virginis āno dni milīmo cccc° Sexagesimo et Corpus Dulcie uxīs dci Robtī

del Bouthe que obiit in crastino Scē Tecle virginis Anno Domini Milimo cccc° Quinquagesimo tercio quorum animabus propicietur Deus, Amen." ("Here lie the body of Sir Robert del Bouthe, Knight, formerly lord of Bolyn, Thorneton, and Dunham, who died on the feast of Saint Edith the Virgin (Septr. 16) in the year of our Lord 1460, and the body of Dulcia, the wife of the said Sir Robert del Bouthe, who died on the morrow of the feast of Saint Tecla the Virgin (Septr. 23) in the year of our Lord 1453; on whose souls may God have mercy. Amen.")

The latter part of this inscription, beginning at the word *crastino*, is all that now remains. Mr. Earwaker, in his "East Cheshire," following the lead of Mr. Brooke, F.S.A., points out a curious error into which Dr. Ormerod has fallen, through a misreading of this inscription, owing to his not having consulted the Holme MSS.

According to Ormerod's version, the knight (and not his lady) is represented as dying on St. Tecla's day, and from the coincidence that the battle of Blore Heath was fought on St. Tecla's day, he seems to have drawn the very daring inference that Sir Robert was one "of the warriors who fell at Blore Heath." But even,



1460.

SIR ROBERT DEL BOTHE AND LADY.

Wilmslow Church, Cheshire.

while accepting, for the sake of argument, this reading of the legend on the tomb, Mr. Earwaker convicts the earlier historian of Cheshire of inaccuracy; for, says he, Blore Heath was fought in 1459, whereas Sir Robert died in 1460.

Be this as it may, however, the authority of Ormerod on things Cestrian was not one to be lightly set aside, and hence this Blore Heath fable has been many times repeated without question, until, as Mr. Earwaker remarks, it "almost threatens to become a popular local error."

It is hard, however, to be deprived, at the dictate of unyielding truth, of this Blore Heath legend, the one fragment, as it promised to be, of biographical interest left from the wrecks of time. For there is really nothing known of Sir Robert to supplement the information afforded by his inscription, except some barren particulars to be gleaned from the Record Office.

By birth and descent Sir Robert was a Lancashire man, being a younger son of John Booth of Barton, near Manchester. It was to his wife, and the handsome dowry that she brought him, that he owed his prominent position on the other side of the Mersey. It was a relation of his, of a later generation, and belonging to the branch of

the family which remained in Lancashire, who won renown on Flodden Field, and of whom the bard sang :—

"Sir John Booth of Barton
Was borne from his life.
A more bolder burne
Was never born of woman."

In 1409 Sir Robert married Douce or Dulcia Venables, who was then only nine years of age. This Douce was younger daughter of Sir William Venables of Bolyn, knight ; the Venables family having for a long time carried on the line, and held the estates of the old house of Fitton. Sir William Venables died in 1402, leaving three children, Richard, Alice, and Douce. Alice married Edmund de Trafford, and Douce married Robert del Bothe, both of whom were afterwards knighted.

Richard Venables having been drowned by accident in September, 1402, the husbands of Alice and Douce, in right of their wives, succeeded in equal shares to the manor of Bolyn.

This division did not take place until 1421, when Douce, the younger daughter, attained her majority. Bolyn was thereupon divided into two separate manors. One half of the old manor, including the advowson of Wilmslow Church,

passed to Sir Edmund Trafford, of Trafford near Manchester, and still remains in the family. The other half, comprising "Styal in Pownall Fee township, and Dean Row in Bollin Fee township, the Bollin mills, and £5 yearly rent from the heirs of Alice Venables, together with the manor of Falibrome (in Prestbury parish), lands in Norley, Kingsley, etc., and the moiety of the manor of Thornton, with the advowson of Thornton church in West Cheshire," passed to Sir Robert del Bothe, and, until recently, remained in the family of his descendants, the Earls of Stamford and Warrington.

In 1443 Sir Robert and his son William were made Sheriffs of Cheshire "for both their lives, *conjunctim vel divisim*, and to the survivor of them," a tenure of the shrievalty which is certainly remarkable. This grant, however, was revoked in the next reign, 2 Edward IV., 1462. The exact date of Sir Robert's death is uncertain.

"It is worth noting," says Mr. Earwaker, "that Sir Peter Leycester, who had access to the Booth papers, states that Sir Robert del Bothe seems to have died 29th Henry VI., which would be in 1450-1 ; if for 29th we read 39th, the date will agree with the inscription said to have been

on his tomb." He was succeeded by his son, Sir William Booth, knight.

A drawing of the complete brass (restored) is given in Mr. Earwaker's "East Cheshire;" and another (showing the figures only) in Mr. Boutell's "Monumental Brasses of England." *(See also Oxford Manual, and Haines' Manual of Brasses.)*

Lady Margaret Byron.

Lady Margaret Byron.

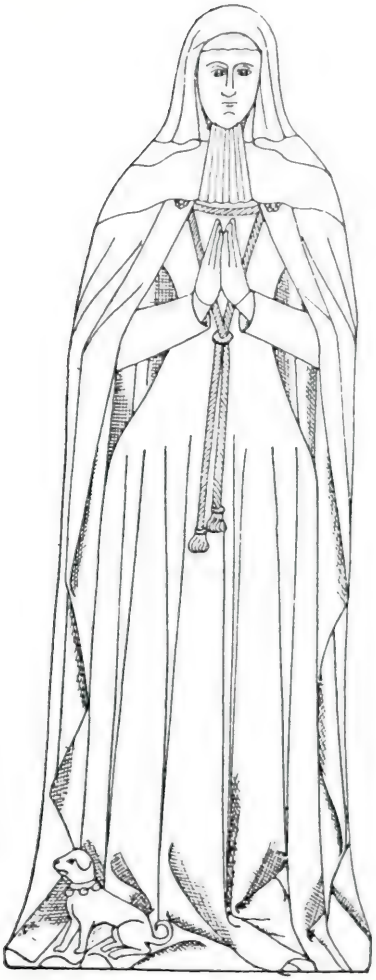
A.D. *c.* 1460.

Manchester Cathedral.

THIS brass is in good condition, except for the loss of the head, which in the accompanying plate has been restored from contemporary examples. The figure originally formed part of the monumental brass of Sir John Byron, but nothing of his effigy remains except a fragment showing the waist, the tuilettes, the dagger, and sword-hilt, which are exact counterparts of those of Sir Robert del Bothe at Wilmslow. It will be noticed, too, that Lady Margaret, or Marjory, except for the addition of a hood or wimple, is attired, like Lady Dulcia Bothe, in a plain dress, fitting tightly at the waist, over which she wears a cloak fastened about her shoulders by a cord. As in that lady's brass, her little lap-dog, with bells upon his collar, is represented sitting at her feet. The brass is a very good one, well drawn and deeply cut, like the Wilmslow brass, and, indeed, like all con-

temporary examples, which resemble one another very closely.

The lady's maiden name was Booth; her husband, Sir John Byron, was Steward of the College at Manchester, and died about 1460. *(See an article by Mr E. F. Letts in the Palatine Note-Book for June, 1884.)*



c. 1480.
MARGARET BYRON.
Manchester Cathedral.

A Lawyer.

A Lawyer.

A.D. *c.* 1460.

St. Peter's Church, Chester.

THIS brass at the present time is affixed to a pillar near the door of St. Peter's Church, Chester, but it is evident from its greatly worn condition that it was originally upon the pavement of the church. Inscription and other accessories have long since disappeared; nothing has been left but the figure, and that in a somewhat dilapidated plight. This effigy is said to represent a lawyer of old time, though upon what authority the writer is unaware. There seems, however, every probability that this view is correct.

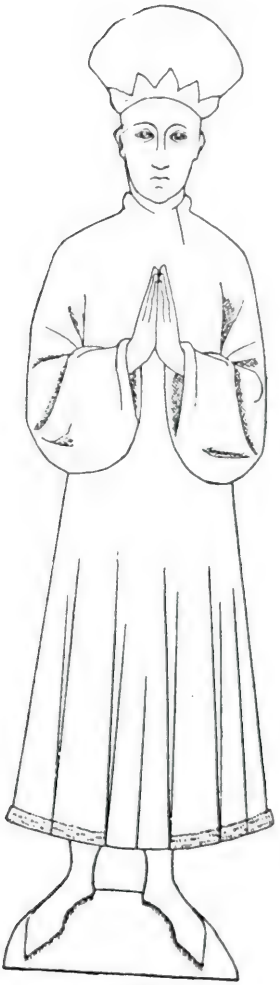
The person commemorated is represented as wearing a long plain robe reaching to the ankles, with a fringe of fur upon the skirts, and having full loose sleeves. His hands are joined in the attitude of prayer. He is closely shaved, and has no hair visible, the crown of his head being covered by a very large cap, with a turned-up

edging of fur, or some other substance, about the temples.

In Grose's "Antiquities of England and Wales" *(Supplement, Vol. II., at p. 37 of the Addenda)* is a plate representing a monumental brass in Rodmarton Church, Gloucestershire, commemorating one John Edward, who is described as "*apprenticius in lege peritus*" ("an apprentice, or barrister, learned in the law.") The date is 7th January, 1461. The effigy of this John Edward is given in a dress almost exactly similar to the Chester brass. He also wears a similarly shaped round cap, but not quite so full and large in the crown.

With the exception of this head-gear, which is probably indicative of his profession, the dress of the St. Peter's lawyer, and the style of the brass generally, are almost precisely similar to many brasses of civilians of the fifteenth century. The date is probably in the latter half of that century, say 1460. The following account is extracted from the "Chester Archæological Society's Transactions," Vol. III., pp. 387, 388:—

"In the south aisle is an elegant monumental brass. The tablet which could give any information regarding it has been removed. It has been



c. 1460.
A LAWYER.
St. Peter's Church, Chester.

my earnest wish to substantiate a theory that this effigy represented Mr. Thomas Townshend, a sheriff of the city two hundred years ago, who died during his year of office, and was buried in the vault over which the brass is now placed. I regret, however, for many reasons, that I am compelled to abandon this theory; as several gentlemen, who are authorities on brasses and all antiquarian research, and amongst them Augustus W. Franks, Esq., Director of the Society of Antiquaries, and Keeper of the Mediæval Collection of the British Museum, have pronounced the brass to represent a lawyer of the time of Henry V., of a very rare type."

An Ecclesiastic.

An Ecclesiastic.

A.D. *c.* 1480.

Eccleston, Lancashire.

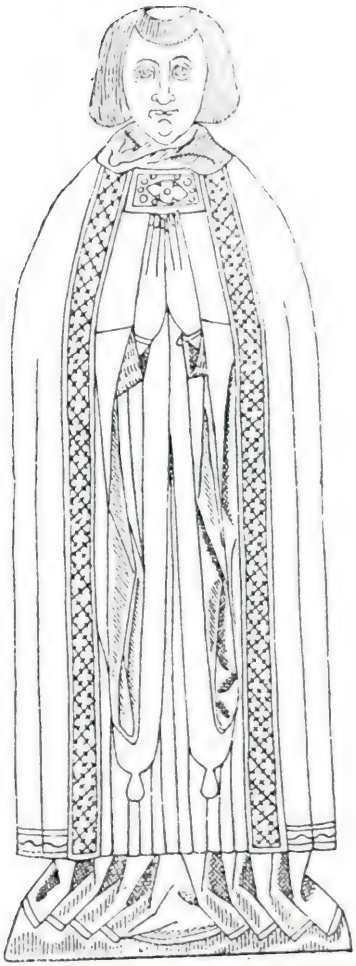
THIS brass lies upon an altar-tomb on the south side of the chancel of the old church at Eccleston, near Chorley, in Lancashire. The stone to which it is affixed bears the hollowed *matrices* of what were formerly the accessories of the effigy, namely two scrolls (probably bearing pious ejaculations, like those on the Macclesfield brass), one at each side of, and slightly above the priest's head; two small figures above these again, and along the edge of the stone a band or riband bearing the name and date of death of the defunct clergyman. All that remains of the latter is a small piece of brass with the termination of some word ending with the letter S, and the word "Anno," in old black-letter type.

The loss of the inscription deprives us of a clue to the person commemorated.

Most probably the brass represents one of the rectors of the church. Baines, indeed, refers to

this monument as "the effigy of a bishop, in brass, fully enrobed." But the inscription had been lost before he wrote, so that he seems to have had no reason, other than his own inferences drawn from the effigy itself, for describing it as representing a bishop. It is in truth no more than the figure of an ordinary parish priest—the "Persoun" of the Canterbury tales: "an appellation," says Sir William Blackstone, "which (however it may be depreciated by familiar, clownish, and indiscriminate use), is the most legal, most beneficial, and most honourable title that a parish priest can enjoy, because such a one (Sir Edward Coke observes), and he only, is said *vicem seu personam ecclesiae gerere.*"

This error on the part of the historian of Lancashire (to whom so large a debt of gratitude is justly due from his fellow-shiresmen) is on all fours with his description of the Scarisbrick brass at Ormskirk as that of a "crusader." These mistakes show a combined ignorance of chronology and costume, as illustrated by monumental antiquities, which detracts greatly from the value of his work, whenever he quits the paths of compilation for those of original research.



c. 1430.
AN ECCLESIASTIC.
Eccleston, Lancashire.

The priest is represented with the usual tonsured crown (the tonsure was a stern reality in those days!), and has his hands joined in prayer.

He wears the processional vestments, alb, surplice, and cope, the latter edged with an ornamental pattern or *orphrey*, and clasped by a large brooch or *morse*.

The figure is simply and pleasingly drawn.

In the absence of any other index to the date of this brass, we have to compare it with other examples. From such comparison, we are inclined to assign it to the latter portion of the fifteenth century—say 1480—but this, it must be remembered, is purely speculative.

Piers Gerard, Esquire.

Piers Gerard, Esquire.

A.D. 1485,

Winwick, Lancashire.

THIS is a large and very handsome brass, but has unhappily been a good deal defaced by the treading of feet.

It lies upon the floor of the Gerard chapel or chantry on the north side of the fine old church of St. Oswald at Winwick, a few miles distant from Warrington, the living of which is one of the richest in England.

The wear and tear above alluded to have rendered some of the lines of the brass very faint, and have all but obliterated the features, which have been restored in the accompanying plate from contemporary examples. The guard of the sword-hilt has also gone, but the clearly-cut *matrix* in the stone slab shews its exact outline.

Piers or Peter Gerard is attired in a tabard emblazoned with his arms, and in this respect, as well as in the style of his armour generally, he closely resembles the brass of Henry Norris at Childwall, and the Scarisbrick brass at Ormskirk,

especially the latter. His hair is long and flowing; his hands, cased in gauntlets, which leave the fingers free, are joined in prayer. On his feet he wears the round-toed clumsy *sabbatons* which had at this time superseded the graceful pointed *sollerets* of an earlier age. *(See the brass of Sir Robert del Bothe.)*

His feet rest upon a very stiff and conventional-looking lion, who lies couchant upon a bank, where plants and flowers are growing. Above the esquire's armour is a surcoat or tabard, bearing upon the front, and also upon the flaps of the cape which cover either shoulder, the Gerard arms, a lion rampant crowned. As is common in the brasses of this period, the sword is worn in a sloping position at the back of the figure: a dagger hangs from the right side.

Above the effigy is the greater part of a fine triple canopy of much beauty. Beneath the figure is this inscription, "Here lieth Piers Gerard Esquire son and heire of Thomas Gerard Knyghte of the Bryne who married Margaret daughter of William Stanley of Hoton Knyghte which died the XIX day of June in the yere of our Lord MCCCCLXXXV on whose soule God have mercy. Amen."

1485.
PIERS GERARD, ESQUIRE.
Winwick, Lancashire.

"Beneath the foot-legend are three shields of arms; and below the centre one a very small figure of a boy." *(Boutell's Monumental Brasses and Slabs, p. 77, n.)*

This gallant Esquire was a member of the house of Gerard, which still holds its place as one of the famous old Catholic families of Lancashire, who have maintained their faith through good repute and ill.

The family traces its origin from Otho or Other, a rich and powerful lord in King Alfred's days, descended from the Dukes of Tuscany, who, from Florence or Norway, passed to Hetruria, in Normandy, and thence to England, in which country, and in Wales, they flourished, until Richard Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, their kinsman, induced them to join in his expedition to Ireland.

The earlier members of the family bore indifferently the name of Gerard, Gerald, or Fitzgerald.

The person whose brass is here depicted, Piers Gerard of Kingsley and Bryn, Esquire,

was son of Sir Thomas Gerard and Douce, daughter of Sir Thomas Assheton of Assheton. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir William Stanley of Hooton, knight, by Margaret his wife, daughter of Sir John Bromley of Badington, heiress to her mother. *(Foster's Lancashire Pedigrees.)*

His son, Sir Thomas Gerard, knight, led his Brindle archers against the Scots, and was one of the many Lancashire knights who reaped laurels upon Flodden Field. He fell in battle, 6th November, 15 Henry VIII.

Above the door of the Gerard Chapel is a quaint oak carving of the crowned rampant lion of the Gerards, and the initials of a certain Sir Thomas Gerard, and Elizabeth, his wife.

At the old moated and now ruinous Hall of Bryn ("the Bryne," as the epitaph has it) was formerly preserved that strange Lancashire relic known as Father Arrowsmith's hand, or "the holy hand,"

The Gerards, who were related to Arrowsmith's family, took it with them to their new seat of Garswood, and in 1822 it was transferred to the Catholic Church at Ashton-in-Makerfield, where it is still reverently kept.

Sir Ralph Assheton, and Margaret,
his Wife.

Sir Ralph Assheton, and Margaret, his Wife.

A.D. *c.* 1485.

Middleton, Lancashire.

THE church of St. Leonard, at Middleton, is by far the richest in either of the palatine counties in the matter of brasses, most of which commemorate members of the Assheton family.

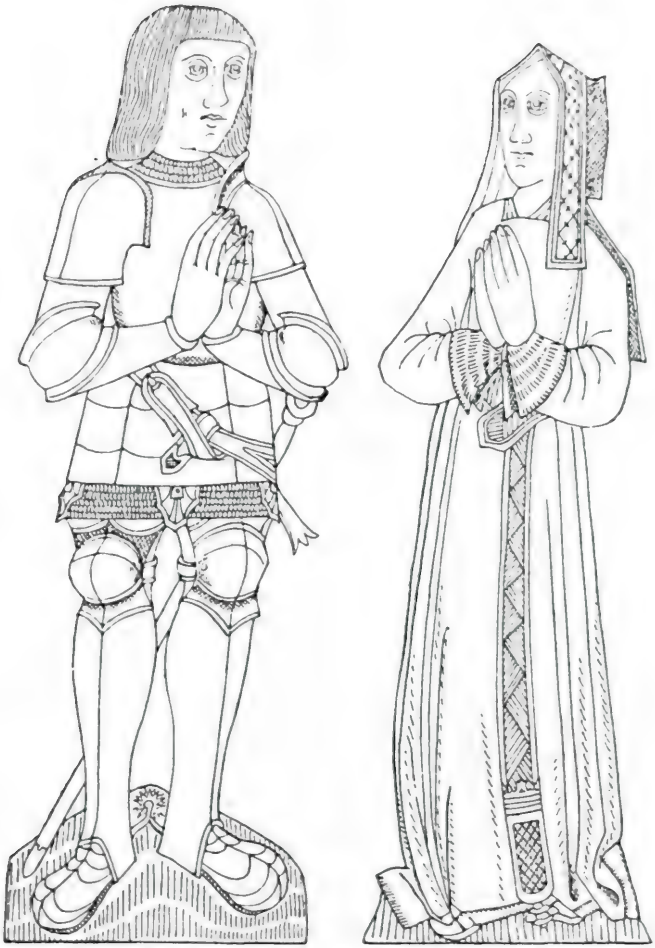
All these were originally situated in the body of the church, or in the side chapels; and many of them were hidden by pews, and greatly neglected.

Dr. Durnford (afterwards Bishop of Chichester) when rector of Middleton, 1835-1870, caused the brasses to be removed and placed in the chancel—a great improvement, with the single drawback that the monuments no longer indicate the resting-places of the dead.

A few years ago the project was discussed of having these brasses removed to an upright position against the walls. Happily this mis-

guided scheme was frustrated by the public-spirited opposition of many of the residents and others; a thoughtful and appreciative paper read at Middleton, by Mr. George Esdaile, largely contributing to stimulate and give expression to the popular opinion.

Earliest in date of the brasses in this church are those supposed to commemorate Sir Ralph Assheton, and Margaret, his wife, daughter and heiress of John Barton, Esquire of Rydale, co. York, who brought the valuable estate of Middleton into this branch of the Assheton family. True, there is no inscription, "but," says the learned editor of the *Iter Lancastrense (Chet. Soc. Pub., 1845)*, "no inscription was wanted to prove this to be the tomb of Sir Ralph Assheton and Margaret Barton." The monument also bears the arms of Assheton quartering Barton of Middleton. It is quite possible that this conjecture is correct, but in the absence of proof to the contrary, the brass might also be taken to represent Sir Richard Assheton, son of the above, who was knighted for his services in the Scottish wars under Lord Strange, and died in April, 23 Henry VII., having married Isabel, daughter of John Talbot, of Shrewsbury. So far as the style



c. 1485.

SIR RALPH ASSHETON AND MARGARET, HIS WIFE.

Middleton Church, Lancashire.

of the armour goes, either of these might be the person represented. Moreover, if the rules of heraldry were strictly observed (which, however, they were *not* by the old brass designers) the fact of the Barton arms being *quartered* with those of Assheton ought to be conclusive proof that the monument is not that of the man who married the heiress of the Bartons, and so introduced the arms of that house into his family escutcheon.

Mr. Esdaile, however, in the lecture to which we have referred (delivered on the 14th of September, 1889), propounded another theory.

"Unless this brass," he says, "represents Sir Ralph Assheton, and his wife, Elena or Eleanore, daughter of Adam Hulton, of Hulton, and their seven sons and six daughters, I fail to recognise them. Flower, the Herald, only gives them two daughters, perhaps only those who lived to be married. If this idea be the correct one, their son was the grantee of Whalley Abbey. The Asshetons here represented were uncle and aunt and cousins to Edmund Assheton, the priest."

Both figures are attired in costumes very common during the latter years of the fifteenth and the early years of the sixteenth century. The knight has smooth-shaved face and long

hair; he wears plate armour, with *sabbatons;* a sword, but no dagger.

His lady has a plain dress with fur cuffs, pedimental head-dress, and long girdle with a *pomander* at the end. The hands of both are raised in prayer, and are without gloves. The figures turn inwards, partly facing each other. They are short and thick, and somewhat clumsy in design, but have considerable merit, nevertheless.

Beneath their parents are the diminutive figures of seven sons, in long plain robes with hanging sleeves, and six daughters in dresses like that worn by their mother, and pedimental head-gear.

Sir Ralph Assheton, the first of the Middleton branch of that ancient family, was page of honour to Henry VI. He afterwards held the high offices of Knight Marshall of England, Lieutenant of the Tower of London, and Sheriff of Yorkshire. In the twenty-fourth year of Edward IV.'s reign he was made a knight-banneret upon Hutton Field, in Scotland. He subsequently was made Vice-Constable of England, with the authority of Constable. Hollinshed mentions him among the knights who rode in the procession at the

coronation of Richard III. *(Foster's "Lancashire Pedigrees.")*

Rendered arrogant, perhaps, by the acquisition of these honours, Sir Ralph seems to have behaved in a very high-handed and cruel manner to his neighbours and dependants. "Retaining for life the privilege granted to him in Ashton, of 'Guld-riding,' he, on a certain day in Spring, made his appearance in the manor, clad in black armour (whence his name of the 'Black Lad,' or 'Black Boy,') mounted on a charger, and attended with a numerous train of his own followers, in order to levy the penalty arising from the neglect of clearing the land from carr-gulds" (or corn-cockles). (*"Lancashire Folk-Lore," by J. Harland and T. T. Wilkinson, p. 290.*)

Such odium attached to the memory of the Black Knight of Ashton that, somewhat after the manner in which the Anti-Napoleonic ballads arose, the hatred and fear of the people took shape and acquired perpetuity in the following rude quatrain :—

"Sweet Jesu, for Thy mercy's sake,
And for Thy bitter passion,
Save us from the axe of the Tower
And from Sir Ralph of Ashton."

The doings of this "tyrant of the fields" are still further perpetuated by the singular custom known as "Riding the Black Lad" at Ashton on Easter Monday.

In Roby's "Traditions of Lancashire," Sir Ralph's excesses are worked up into a readable enough story.

In Whitaker's "History of Whalley," it is said that this Sir Ralph and his wife "were the parents of the (supposed) rebuilder of the church" (at Middleton), alluding to Edmund Assheton rector of the church, whose brass is engraved in this book.

In Foster's "Lancashire Pedigrees," however, although among the children of this couple is one named Edmund, it is *Thomas* who is described as priest.

The pedigree, however, shows Edmund Assheton, Rector of Middleton, to have been one of the sons of Sir Richard Assheton, grandson of the "Black Knight," and who displayed much prowess at Flodden, and dedicated his armour to St. Leonard; in token whereof, in the Assheton Chapel in Middleton Church, may yet be seen his helmet, with the boar's head crest, the blade of his sword, and three spurs.

A Member of the Scarisbrick Family.

A Member of the Scarisbrick Family.

A.D. *c.* 1500.

Ormskirk, Lancashire.

THIS is a handsome brass, but time has dealt harshly with it. No inscription is left; so that both name and date are unknown. That it represents a member of the old Lancashire house of Scarisbrick of that ilk, is proved by the arms of the family being blazoned upon the warrior's tabard, and also by the brass being in the Scarisbrick chapel in Ormskirk Church.

The style of the armour, etc., fixes its date somewhere about the end of the fifteenth century.

The brass is large, like that of Piers Gerard, which in style and general features it closely resembles.

All that remains now is the figure, and this, awkwardly enough, has been fastened, at a considerable height, against the wall of the Chantry of St. Nicholas, or Scarisbrick chapel. It was formerly upon the floor, under a heavy pew in this chapel. The knight (or we shall probably be

more correct in terming him "esquire") has flowing hair, curiously curled at the ends; his face is clean-shaven. About his neck is a narrow chain worn three-fold, but without any pendant. He wears plate-armour, and the clumsy *sabbatons* alluded to in our notice of Piers Gerard's brass. His feet rest upon a lion: the lion's head and the hilt of the sword have been broken off, but in the annexed engraving have been restored from Piers Gerard's brass, which is evidently very similar. It is noticeable that he wears no *misericorde*, or dagger. He wears a surcoat, upon the body and cape of which are the Scarisbrick arms, *argent* 3 mullets of 6 points between two bendlets engrailed *gules*. Like the surcoat in Henry Norris's brass, but unlike that of Piers Gerard, his surcoat leaves exposed the lower portion of his shirt of mail, and the ends of the *tuiles*. His head rests upon an embroidered cushion, which probably was originally tasselled at the corners.

In Ormskirk Church is a bell with the inscription, "J. S. de B. Armig. et e. ux. me fecerunt in honore Trinitatis. R. B. 1497." ("J. S. of B. Esquire and his wife made me in honour of the Trinity. R. B. 1497.") This inscription has been variously interpreted by local antiquaries.

c. 1500.

A KNIGHT OF THE SCARISBRICK FAMILY.
Ormskirk Church, Lancashire.

In Murray's "Handbook for Lancashire" we read, "In the Scarisbrick chapel is an effigy supposed to represent a knight of that family, James Scarisbrick, of Bickerstaffe, the probable donor of the large bell."

This, in all probability, is true, but there appear to have been several James Scarisbricks, each of whom *might* be the person in question. "Mr. Draper, author of 'The House of Stanley,' conjectured that the letters upon the bell 'were the initials of James Scarisbrick, who, by an inquisition of 4 Hen. VII., held lands in Burscough;' or else of another James Scarisbrick, who married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Atherton, of Bickerstaffe, and whose daughter, Elizabeth Scarisbrick, married Peter Stanley, of Aughton. Neither of these conjectures, however, is admissible. The first-named James Scarisbrick, whose inquisition is dated 24 (not 4), Henry VII. (misquoted by Mr. Baines in 1835, and the error adopted by Mr. Draper), was a minor at his death in 1508, while the second-named, the uncle of the first, would not be 'of Bickerstaff' until after his father-in-law's death in 1514; while his wife, whose initials would be M., not E" (but the E. may be for *ejus*, and may not stand for the

wife's initial), "was at her father's death only thirty years old, and consequently could not have been married in 1495. By the kindness of Mr. Wm. Hardy, of the Duchy of Lancaster Office, I have, however, obtained copies of the various inquisitions referred to, which show that there was another James Scarisbrick (hitherto overlooked in the controversy), father of James Scarisbrick who married Margaret Atherton, and grandfather of James Scarisbrick who died a minor in 1508.

His wife's name was Elizabeth: he held estates in both Burscough and Bretherton: he is found living in 1494, dying sometime between that date and 1501, his wife surviving him: and his son Gilbert's will shows the family's interest both in the priory of Burscough and Ormskirk Church:—'I will that mine executors content and pay towards the buying of a cross to the church of Ormskirke, 5s.' Thus it seems not improbable that we have in this James Scarisbrick the elder, the donor of the bell." *(Note by Mr. B. Herford in revised ed. of Baines' Lancashire).*

In the absence of other evidence, it appears likely that this James Scarisbrick is the subject of the brass.

An Edward Scarisbrick of this family was receiver-general to Henry, Earl of Derby, "and was one of the gentlemen-ushers who attended the burial of his father, Edward, Earl of Derby, in that remarkable display of funeral pageantry which the town of Ormskirk witnessed on December 4, 1574. The last in the male line of this ancient race was the late Charles Scarisbrick, Esq., who died unmarried in 1860, leaving large possessions, inherited and acquired. The manors of Scarisbrick, Halsall, and Downholland, fell to his eldest sister, Ann, widow of Sir Thomas Windsor Hunloke, of Wingerworth, Derbyshire, Bart., who assumed the name of Scarisbrick. At her death, in 1872, she was succeeded by her only surviving daughter, Eliza Margaret, married to Leon Biandos, Marquis de Castèja. This lady is since dead without issue, and the Marquis now enjoys the estate." *(Rev. T. E. Gibson's "Cavalier's Note-Book," page 289.)*

Roger Legh, Esquire, and Elizabeth his Wife, and their Children.

Roger Legh, Esquire, and Elizabeth his Wife, and their Children.

A.D. 1506.

Macclesfield, Cheshire.

THIS brass, or what is left of it (for unfortunately one half is lost) "is still," says Mr. Earwaker, in his "East Cheshire," "preserved in the Savage Chapel, on the south side of Macclesfield Church."

When the writer visited the church, in the autumn of 1890, the chapel was undergoing repairs, and the brass (consisting of the figures of Roger Legh with his sons, and the central picture and inscriptions), screwed upon a wooden board, was being temporarily kept in the vestry; but no doubt ere this it has been restored to its original position.

To Randal Holme, once more, we owe it that the figure of Elizabeth Legh and her daughters, with the label and legend above her head can be restored.

The accompanying plate, so far as relates to

the missing portion of the brass, is copied by kind permission of Mr. Earwaker from the engraving given in his book, which is taken from a sketch by Randle Holme among his MSS. *(Harl. M.S, 2151).* At the time of the publication of Hanshall's "History of Cheshire," 1817, this brass seems to have been intact.

Roger Legh in this brass is represented in the garb of peace, far less common in monuments of knights and esquires than full armour, though his attire is of a character frequently met with. The hair is worn low upon the forehead, and the face is clean-shaven: he is clothed in a long flowing robe with wide sleeves, and faced with fur. At his girdle is a *gypcière*, or large purse. He is in a kneeling posture, with his hands clasped in prayer. Behind him are his six sons, in robes of a similar fashion, but without the fur trimming, or the belt and purse. They, however, are standing, and not kneeling, as erroneously stated in the "Oxford Manual of Brasses," p. 127. On a scroll above the figure of Roger Legh is the inscription :—"A dampnacōe ppetua libā nos dne." ("Deliver us from damnation everlasting, O Lord.") From Holme's sketch of Elizabeth and her daughters, they appear to be clad in plain dresses, with

girdles and pedimental head-gear. The lady's invocation, upon the scroll above her, was:—"In die judicii libā nos dne." ("In the day of judgment deliver us, O Lord.")

Mr. Earwaker gives an interesting account of the central portion of the brass, which, he says, "depicts a well-known passage in the life of St. Gregory the Great, when, as the tradition goes, that Pope, kneeling before the altar, prayed for a Divine manifestation of the truth of the sacrament of our Lord's body, and is represented to have seen a vision of our Lord rising out of the consecrated bread. In this representation the Pope is shown wearing the tiara or triple crown, and kneeling before an altar, on which are a chalice and an open mass-book: the figure of our Lord, showing the wounds in His hands and side, is seen rising at the back. Similar representations of the Mass of St. Gregory, as it is often called, are frequently met with in missals, but this is the only instance in which it has been found on a monumental brass. In Stoke-Charity Church, in Hampshire, a piece of sculpture representing this subject was found about thirty years since, and a much mutilated piece of carving depicting it was in Exeter Cathedral. It was also

represented in a mural painting, discovered in Beverstone Church, co. Gloucester, in 1849." The subject of "St. Gregory's Mass," or "St. Gregory's Pity," is very common in missals.

According to the original story, the bread was by the prayer of St. Gregory turned into a piece of flesh; but artistic exigencies required that the vision should be altered into the apparition of Christ, as being more impressive and instructive. The English translation of the golden legend has it thus:—

"It happed that a wydowe wonte to brynge every sonday hoostes to syng masse wyth shold on a tyme be houseled and communed. And when Saint Gregory shold give her y^e^ holy sacrament, in saying Corpus Domini nostri, etc., that is to say the body of oure Lorde Ihesu Cryst kepe you to everlastyng lyf, anon thys woman began to smyle tofore Saint Gregorye, and anon he wythdrew his honde and remysed the sacrament upon thaulter. And he demanded her tofore the people why she smyled, and she said because y^e^ brede y^t^ I have made with my proper hondes thou namest ye body of oure Lorde Ihesu Cryst. Anon Saint Gregory put himself to prayer wyth the people for to praye to God that hereupon he wolde shew

1506.

ROGER LEGH, ESQUIRE, AND ELIZABETH HIS WIFE, AND THEIR CHILDREN.

Macclesfield, Cheshire.

his grace for to conferme oure byleve. And whan they were rysen from prayer Saint Gregorye sawe the holy sacrament in figure of a pyece of fleshe as grete as the lytull finger of an honde, and anon after, by the prayer of Saint Gregorye the fleshe of the sacrament turned in the semblaunce of bread as it had ben tofore. And therewyth he houseled the woman, whych after was more relygyous and the people more ferme in the fayth." In the "Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire" *(Old Series, Vol. II., p. 243)*, is a drawing of the carved representation in Stoke-Charity Church before mentioned. *(See also Archæologia, xlii., 294;* and *Haines' Manual of Brasses, p. ci.)*.

Under the representation just described is the following legend:—"The pdon for saying of a pater nost' & V aues and a cred is xxvj. thousand yeres and xxvj. dayes of pardon."

In or about the year 1640 there is said to have been a representation of a similar character in the Collegiate Church (now the Cathedral) at Manchester.

In Hollingworth's *Mancuniensis* it is thus described, "a pardon under the picture of the resurrection of Christ from the sepulchre, the

pardon for five paternosters, five aves, and a creede is xxvj. thousand and xxvj. dayes of pardon." After the Reformation, inscriptions of this sort were discountenanced as superstitious, and the form "Of your charity pray for the soul of A.B., on whose soul may God have mercy," was substituted.

The epitaph formerly on the brass of John Marsham and wife, St. John's, Madermarket, 1525, is a curious instance of the change of opinion. The original inscription concluded, "Ye shall not lose your charitable devocion: xii. Cardinals have granted you xii. dayes of pardon." The plate was afterwards reversed, the new inscription engraved on the back, "Of your charity," etc., and it concluded "on whose soules," etc. (*Oxford Manual, p. cii.*).

Beneath the figures on the Macclesfield brass is the inscription:—"Orate pro aiabz Rogeri legh et Elizabeth ux' is sue qui quidm Rogerus obiit iiijo. die Novembris A° dni m° v° vj° Elizabeth vero obijt v° die Octobris A° dni M°CCCCLXXXIX° quor' aiabz ppicietur de'" ("Pray for the souls of Roger Legh, and Elizabeth, his wife, which said Roger died on the 4th day of November, A.D. 1506, while

Elizabeth died on the 5th day of October, A.D. 1489: on whose souls may God be merciful.")

A further part of the original monument, as illustrated by Randle Holme's sketch, consisted of a couple of shields of brass, one, above the head of Roger Legh, bearing the arms of Legh; the other, above the head of his wife, bearing Legh impaling Sutton.

In Roger Legh we have a scion of the ancient house of Legh of Lyme. But two generations before him, his branch of the family had settled at Ridge, an estate which long remained in the possession of his descendants. The estate of Ridge formerly belonged to the Alcock family, and was brought to the Leghs by the marriage, early in the fifteenth century, of Alice, daughter and heiress of John Alcock, with John de Legh, the second son of the first St. Piers de Legh, of Lyme, Knight. This John was succeeded by his grandson, Roger Legh, whose brass is before us, but of whom unfortunately little is known.

He married Elizabeth, daughter of (? John) Sutton. She was aunt to Sir Richard Sutton, the co-founder of Brasen-nose College, Oxford. "In 1503," Roger Legh, "and his son, styled 'Roger a Leigh' the elder, of the

Ridge, and Roger, his eldest son, were among the trustees appointed by Sir John Percival, Knight, when founding Macclesfield Grammar School." He died on November 4th, 1506, and was buried, as we have seen, at Macclesfield. Roger Legh was succeeded by his son, Roger Legh, of Ridge, Esquire, who is said to have died in 1531. In 1730, the Ridge estate was sold by Francis Legh to Mr. William Norton, of Buxton. It is now in the possession of the Smyth family.

The only vestige now remaining of the old hall is the moat. The ancient family seat has been pulled down, and a farm-house erected on its site.

This brass is engraved in Mr. Earwaker's "East Cheshire," and a rude engraving of it may also be seen in an old work by Joseph Burroughs, entitled a "View of Popery" (*8vo., London, 1735*).

Ralph Dellvys, Esquire, and Katherine,
his Wife.

Ralph Dellvys, Esquire, and Katherine, his wife.

A.D. 1513.

Wybunbury, Cheshire.

THIS is a very handsome brass, and illustrates the finer characteristics of the beginning of the sixteenth century. Ralph Dellvys, or Delves, is represented wearing plate-armour over a shirt of mail, the lower portion of which is divided.

The shoulder-pieces, especially the left, have high guards. He has *sabbatons* upon his feet, but wears no gauntlets.

He is armed with sword and dagger, the former being slung in a diagonal position at his back, a practice common to all brasses at this period. His head rests upon a helmet, which bears the usual tasselled *lambrequin*, and *torse* surmounted by the family crest, a demi-heron with wings displayed, which shows traces of having once been inlaid with silver. The esquire is facing slightly to the left, towards his lady, who is

apparelled in the familiar pedimental head-dress, and wears a long plain dress, close-fitting at the waist and sleeves, and hanging in heavy folds about her feet. Her cuffs and the border of her skirts are edged with fur. About her waist is an ornamental girdle, with clasps and pendant of the common pattern. Her hands, like those of her husband, are raised in prayer.

On her left side is the matrix of a group of three very diminutive children, but the brass itself has been removed.

Beneath the figures of Ralph and his lady is the following inscription, in old-English letters:—"Here lyth Rafe Dellvys Esquyer of dodenton and Kateryn hys Wyfe, the whyche Rafe died the seconde day of marche in the yere of ower lord God A. MCCCCC and xiii. On whose sowllys Allmyghty Jhū haue mercy."

At the four corners,—two above the heads of the figures, and two below their feet,—were four shields, the two lower of which alone remain: that on the dexter side bearing the arms of Delves, *argent* a chevron *gules chequey, or*, between 3 *delves* or turves, *sable*, which constitute a "canting" achievement, *i.e.*, have a pictorial allusion to the name of the bearer. On the

1513.

RALPH DELLVVS, ESQUIRE, AND KATHERINE, HIS WIFE.

Wybunbury, Cheshire.

sinister side is a shield bearing Delves impaling Touchet.

The brasses were recently embedded in a slab of blue fossil marble, and run in with pitch. This blue slab was built into the wall in the north aisle of the church, which has lately been taken down. Owing to the shifting nature of the soil, and want of care in laying the foundations, the church at Wybunbury has had many rebuildings. The Delves brasses were originally on the floor of the old church which was standing at the date of their erection. In 1595 Bishop Gastrell built another church on the same site, and the brasses occupied a position on the floor of the Lady Chapel in this church. The church was subsequently a third time rebuilt, and yet again in 1832; and is now about to be rebuilt for the fifth time. It is intended to remove the brasses from their false position on the wall, to the floor of the chancel of the new building, together, if possible, with their original setting of blue marble.

The Delves or Delvys family, long settled at Doddington in Cheshire, came originally from Delves Hall, near Uttoxeter in Staffordshire. Dugdale in his pedigree traces them from John Delves of that place. John Delves of Doddington

was one of the four Cheshire squires of Lord Audley, who, under the Black Prince (who was Earl of Chester), did great feats of *derring-doe* at Poictiers in 1364. The other three esquires were Dutton of Dutton, Fulherst of Crewe, and Hawkeston of Wrinehill.

Ralph (also known as Randle), the subject of the accompanying engraving, was a younger son of Sir John Delves, who was slain at the Battle of Tewkesbury, 4th May, 1471, and whose eldest son and heir, John, also took part in the battle, both father and son fighting on the Lancastrian side. "The younger Delves was one of those who fled after the battle to Tewkesbury Abbey, where they were pursued by King Edward, who entered the church, sword in hand, but being opposed by a priest, who lifted up the Host between the King and the fugitives, granted a promise of pardon, which he afterwards falsified, and two days after, on Monday, May 6th, caused them to be brought out and beheaded." (*Ormerod's Cheshire*). Both were buried at Tewkesbury, as appears by the Abbey registers, but the son's body was afterwards removed to Wybunbury.

It is presumed that Ralph Delves' children,

who were once represented on the monument, died before him, for he was succeeded in the inheritance of Doddington by his younger brother, Henry. He also had another younger brother, Richard, a canon of Lichfield, and rector of Warrington.

The "Captain Delves" who sat at Chester as one of the court-martial commissioned by Oliver Cromwell to try the Earl of Derby, was probably a member of this old Cheshire house. It is greatly to his honour that he and Colonel Twisleton recorded their votes in favour of allowing the noble prisoner's plea of quarter for life granted to him by a Parliamentarian captain, —a plea overruled by all the other members of the tribunal, without the semblance of a justification.

At the end of the seventeenth century, Elizabeth (or Rhoda), only surviving child and heiress of Sir Thomas Delves of Doddington, Bart., married Sir Brian Broughton of Broughton Hall, co. Stafford. The family who thus acquired the estates, and who still reside at Doddington, assumed the name of Delves-Broughton.

Doddington Hall was built in 1777. Sir John Delves, in 1402, obtained licence to build a crenelated tower at Doddington, which still

remains in fairly good preservation. The statues of the Black Prince, Lord Audley, and his four Cheshire squires, of very ancient date, are still to be seen at the entrance to the old tower, and are fairly well preserved. They are about one-and-a half times life size, and hewn out of the same red sandstone of which the tower is built. In Elizabeth's reign a new house was erected, the site of which is pointed out, close to the old tower. This house was twice occupied by the parliament's forces during the Civil War; it was taken down when the present hall was built.

The church at Wybunbury contains monuments of numerous other members of the family.

James Stanley, Bishop of Ely and Warden of Manchester.

James Stanley, Bishop of Ely and Warden of Manchester.

A.D. 1515.

Manchester Cathedral.

THE brass of this prelate is one of great interest, and not a little beauty. In it the richness of the Roman vestures is strikingly displayed. The brass lies in the Ely Chantry of the Cathedral (formerly the Collegiate Church) at Manchester. It has unfortunately been a good deal mutilated; the lower portion of the figure, showing the *alb*, the feet, and the ends of the *stole*, has been removed. The tip of the mitre has also been broken off (this has been restored in the accompanying illustration). The bishop is attired in Eucharistic vestments. His mitre is richly jewelled, and of a high and pointed shape; his *amice*, or embroidered collar, has a diaper pattern; the *dalmatic*, the short fringed robe worn over the *alb*, has a foliated pattern. Over all is the *chasuble*, an ample cloak, covering in great part both *alb* and *dalmatic*; this also is richly

embroidered. A *maniple*, or embroidered scarf or kerchief, hangs from his left arm.

He wears tasselled gloves, over which are rings. His right hand is raised in the attitude of benediction; his left grasps a pastoral staff, with *vexillum* and a rose in the crook.

At the foot of the effigy is this inscription :—

"Off yo^r charite pray for the soule of James Stanley sūtyme Bushupe of Ely and Warden of this Colege of Mamchestur which decessed out of this transitore world the xxij daye of March the yer of our Lord God M° CCCCC & XV upon who^s soule and all cristen soull' Jhesu haue mercy.

"Vive deo gratus toto mu'do tumulatus: Crimine mu'dat' semp' transire paratus: ffilij homi usque quo graui corde ut quid diligit vanitate et querit' mendacm: Utinam saperent et ītelligerēt ac nouissima prouiderēt."

"The icon and the inscription were originally cantoned by four shields, of which nothing now remains but the places where they had once been inserted: these probably contained the family alliances, and the arms of the see of Ely. On the end of the tomb is a place for one solitary shield; and on the front is the representation of a fish with a label from its head between two escutcheons

placed at a small distance, but these, like the others, have disappeared." (*Hist. of the Foundations in Manchester.*) The fish, it should be observed, was used emblematically by the early Christians as symbolising Christ. In 1859 the old stone monument was removed, which accounts for its modern appearance.

James Stanley appears to have been far from an exemplary bishop: but there was manly stuff in him: he was a generous and open giver, and doubtless his sins were more against himself than others. There is something so thoroughly human in him that his character seems to have lost nothing in individuality from the lapse of time.

Some of the clearest glimpses into his temperament and life are given in the "Metrical History of the House of Stanley," written by a later member of his house.

James Stanley was the sixth son of Thomas, Lord Stanley, who, in recognition of his services at Bosworth Field, was, by Henry VII., created Earl of Derby.

He studied at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and graduated at the latter about 1458, and in the same year entered into holy

orders, and was made Prebendary of Holywell, in the Church of St. Paul, London. To a member of such a powerful family as the Stanleys, there was no fear of want of promotion, but it would seem that the sacred profession was not his true vocation. The responsibility for this lay with his family, and the matter has been sagely commented upon in the "Metrical History," which gives the reader in a few words an insight into his character.

"His third sonne was James, a goodlye man, a priest,
Yet little priest's mettle was in him, by Christ.
. . . . . .
A goodlie tall man as was in all England,
And spedd well all matters that he took in hand.
. . . . . .
Because he was a priest I dare do no lesse,
But leete, as I know not, of his hardiness.
What proud priest hath a blow on the ear sodenlye
Turneth the other ear likewise for humilitye?
He would not so doe, by the crosse in my purse,
Yet I trust his soule fareth never the worse.
. . . . . .
As manye, more pyttie! sacred orders doe take
For promotion rather than for Christ's sake,
And ofte longe of freinds (the verie truth to tell)
Yt ys great grace yf such one doe prove well;
Great abuse in priesthoode and matrymonye,
Where fancye of freinds shall choose for the partye."

This highly-born and wealthy priest was a

handsome man to boot, some six-and-a-half feet in stature, as an exhumation of his remains proved. No ascetic was he; it might be said of him, as of Chaucer's monk,

> "Now certeinly he was a fair prelat;
> He was not pale as a for-pyned goost."

On the contrary, the writer of the Rhyming Chronicle describes him as:—

> "A great vyander as any in his dayes,"

adding

> "For bysshoppes that then was, this was no dispraise."

The list of his preferments is long. "In 1470, he was appointed prebendary of Driffield, in the Church of York. In 1479 he was collated to the prebend of Dunham in the Church of Southwell; and so quickly did preferments come upon him, that on 22nd July, 1485, he succeeded his uncle in the valuable wardenship of the Collegiate Church at Manchester. A pluralist already, still further promotion awaited him. In 1491 he was installed in the prebend of Yatminster Prima, of the Church of Salisbury, and the next year in the prebend of Beaminster in the same Church. In 1493, he was made Dean of the Royal Chapel of St. Martin's-le-Grand, in London; in 1478, rector of Rostherne, Cheshire; in 1500, Archdeacon of

Richmond; and in 1505, precentor of Salisbury." (*Beamont's "History of Winwick."*)

Mr. Beamont discredits Jortin's story that when Erasmus was in Paris with Lord Mountjoy and some other young nobles, in 1490, he was offered promises and a pension if he would take under his tuition James Stanley, and fit him to be made a bishop. The latter was at the time no longer young. He was destined to take yet a step higher up the ladder of ecclesiastical preferment. His promotion to the bishopric of Ely he is said to have owed to the Countess of Richmond.

"King Harrye the VIIth, a prynce, noble and sage,
Made him bishop (for wisdome and parentage)
Of Ely. Manye a day was he bishopp there,
He builded Somersome, the bysshope's chief manner."

On the 17th July, 1506, Pope Julius II. signed his bull of provision constituting him Bishop of Ely, and, in the following year, the University of Oxford granted and decreed that he might be created a doctor of decrees by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London placing a cap upon his head.

From the year 1493 until about this time, he had held the immensely wealthy living of Winwick, near Warrington. The advowson

belonged, and still belongs, to the Stanley family, and many members of that house have enjoyed its emoluments.

After he had been promoted to the episcopate, "the temporalities were restored, Nov. 5 following, by the King, who also by a grant, dated 13th of the same month, gave him the whole profits of the see during the vacancy, to the amount of nearly £2,500. On this occasion he resigned the Wardenship of Manchester." (*Hist. of Manch. Foundations.*)

James Stanley was one of the witnesses present on the 3rd May 1495, when his father, the Earl, as Constable of England, gave judgment in a suit of arms between Sir Thomas Assheton and Sir Piers Legh, which matter is more fully referred to in the account of the latter knight in this volume. In the next year he was sued under the statute of Liveries.

"The Bishop of Ely spent most of his summers at Somersham, near St. Ives, in Huntingdonshire; the winter with his brother in Lancashire, frequently visiting Manchester, his place of abode there being at Alport, near which a street still retains the name of the Bishop's Gate."

In the memorials of Bernard of Thoulouse,

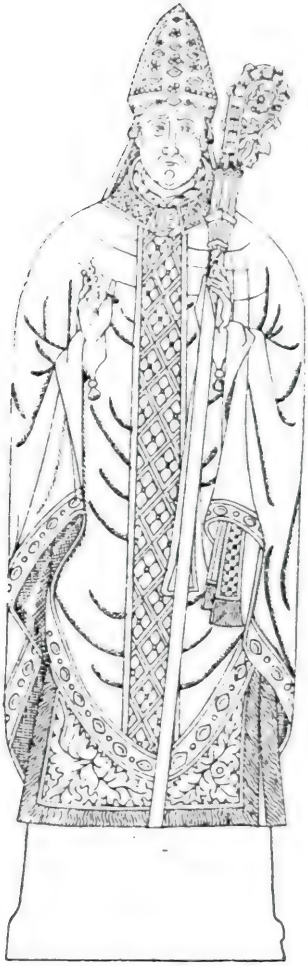
mention is made of the Bishop's coming to London in January, 1508, and later in the same year, of his arrival at Court after prolonged absence from bodily infirmities.

The least creditable incident in the prelate's life is that to which Fuller thus alludes, "I blame not the Bishop," he says, "for passing his summer with the Earl of Derby, but for living all the winter with one who was not his sister, and who wanted nothing to make her his wife save marriage." This affair lost him the Royal favour, and was the cause of his excommunication by the Pope. This accounts for his body having been buried outside the pale of the Cathedral Church in Manchester, for the ban had not been removed when he died. (*Historical Account of Manchester Cathedral, by T. L. Worthington.*)

The issue of this scandalous *liaison* were the brave knight Sir John Stanley, of Hondford, Thomas Stanley, and a daughter, Margaret, who married Sir Henry Halsall of Halsall.

When all Lancashire was summoned to arms against the Scots, a message was sent by the Earl of Surrey

> "To the bishop of Eley
> That bode in those partes."



1515.
JAMES STANLEY, BISHOP OF ELY.
Manchester Cathedral.

There is little doubt that it went sorely against the grain with our valiant bishop (*"armis quam libris peritior,"* as Prior Robert Stewart characterises him, in his *Anglia Sacra*), to be unable to respond in person to this appeal. But he was old and stiff, and must needs send Sir John Stanley, his son, as an able substitute, with a goodly contingent of fighting men.

Holinshed mentions the English left wing as consisting, among others, of "Sir John Stanleie with the Bishop of Elie's seruants."

The quaint old ballad upon Flodden, entitled "The Scottish Field," which in its metre and alliterative verse reminds one of the "Vision of Piers Plowman," thus describes the part the bishop played in the matter. The Earl of Surrey then at Pomfret,

". . . made letters boldlie
all the land over:
In Lancashire belive,
he caused a man to ride,
To the bishop of Eley
that bode in those partes.
Curteslie commaunded him
in the Kinge's name,
To somon the shire,
and set them in order:
He was put in more power,

"than any prelate elles.
Then the bishopp full boldlie
bowneth furth his standart
With a captain full kene
as he was knowen after.

. . . . . .

Sir John Stanley, that stoute knight
that stern was of deedes
With four thousand fursemen
that followed him after;
They were tenantes that they tooke,
that tenden on the bishopp,
Of his houshold I you hete,
hope ye no other.
Every burne had on his breast
broudered with goulde,
A fote of the faireste foule
that ever flowe on winge!
With their crowns full cleare
All of pure goulde!
Yt was a semely sight
to see them togeder,
Fourtene thousand egill feete
feteled in araye."

Two years later the bishop paid the debt of Nature, expiring on the 22nd of March, 1515.

"He did end his life in merry Manchester,
And right honorablye lieth he buried there,
In his chapel, which he began, of freestone.
Sir John Stanlye built it oute when he was gone.
God send his soule to the heavenly companye,
Farewell, godlye James, Byshopp of Elye."

—*(Metrical Hist.)*

His character has been variously presented. Godwin has nothing good to say of him, but Willis, with more charity, observes, "He was extremely generous and hospitable; a benefactor to Jesus College, by giving to it the impropriation of the rectory of Great Shelford, near Cambridge, partly for founding a fellowship therein, the patronage of which he reserved to his successors in the see of Ely; he also compiled the statutes of that College, and got them confirmed by Pope Julius II. He likewise built a noble chapel at Manchester, and much improved the episcopal palace at Somersham. Add to this his provident care in improving the patronage of his see by another fellowship in the same university, which still remains in the nomination of his successors."

A further quotation from "The Scottish Field" can scarcely be resented, expressing as it does in some measure the popular estimate of his character at a period not long after his death :—

". . . A Bishop full bolde
That borne was at Lathum,
Of Eley that ylke lorde
that epe was of deedes!
An egg of that bolde erle
that named was Standley,
Nere of nature to the Duke

"that noble have been ever;
But now death with his dart
hath driven him away!
It is a losse to the lande
our Lorde have his soule!
For his witte and his wisdome
and his wale deedes,
He was a pillar of peace
the people amonge;
His servants they mair syke
and sorrow for his sake,
What for pitie and for paine
my pen doth me fayle.
I will medle with this matter
no more at this tyme,
But He that is makles of mercie
have mynde on his soule!"

Less incompatible with the bishop's temperament, as we know it, than with his calling, was his taste for cock-fighting. But after all, the "cake of custom" largely accounts for his connection with the sport, for it seems that several priests were among the spectators of a great cock-fight at Winwick on 27th April, 1514, the day and place of which were assigned by the Reverend Father in God; and no adverse comment appears to have been made on the circumstance by other members of "the fancy," or by the public at large.

There was certainly something princely in

Bishop Stanley's benefactions to Mother Church, which chiefly took the shape of buildings. He erected the woodwork on the south side of the choir in Manchester Collegiate Church, where his arms are placed. In conjunction with his natural son, Sir John, he undertook to build the large chapel on the north side of the church in honour of Jesus Christ and St. John the Baptist, which was completed about 1513. "Over the door of the chancel of St. John the Baptist were placed the arms of Stanley (base line) impaling Hondford, with this inscription,—"Vanitas vanitatum et omnia vanitas. Obsecramus ut adjuvatis nos Iacobum Elyensem Episcopum, Ioannem Stanley militem et Margaretam uxorem ejus ac parentes corum in orationibus vestris apud dominum Jesum Christum, qui hanc capellam in ejus nomine et in honorem Joannis Baptistae fabricaverunt, anno incarnationis 1513." On many parts of the glass in the chapel was inserted "Memorate novissima."

In 1514 the bishop was employed in building a smaller chapel on the north side of the larger one of St. John the Baptist; and he was advised by Master Alday, the Warden, to order in his will that a tomb should be erected for himself within it.

"Agreeably to the directions of his father, Sir John Stanley undertook the completion of the smaller chantry, within which, on May 23, 1515, the bishop's will was proved." (*Hist. of Manch. Foundations.*)

His will was in the following terms :—

"James Stanley, by the sufferance of our Lord God Bishop of Ely, 20th March, 1514: my body to be buried in a new chapel in my cathedral church of Ely, or else in my new chapel now building at Manchester. I will that the chapel be made for me to be buried and rest my bones in at the east end of my cathedral church, for the which I will 100 marks to be bestowed upon walls, ironwork, glass, and covering, besides my tomb; on which tomb I will 40 marks be bestowed by the advice of Master Alday, Sir Ranulph Pole, and Sir John Claydon, my receiver. I give and bequeath to remain in the said chapel a chalice gilt, etc. I will that another chapel be builded and made at Manchester on the north side of the church, betwixt St. James's chapel and the east end of the same church, with a tomb therein for me, by advice of Master Alday, master warden of Manchester, with £20 a year for furnishing two priests to sing in my said chapel.

To Dr. Standish 40s. I will that Sir John Stanley, Knight, and Thomas Stanley, his brother, William Serjaunt, and Alexander Tyldesley be my executors."

The bishop's coat of arms, as figured on an ornament in the old episcopal palace at Somersham, or Downham, bore :—Quarterly, 1st, quarterly 1st and 4th, *argent* on a bend *azure*, 3 bucks' heads cabossed *or*, for Stanley; 2nd and 3rd *or*, on a chief indented *azure*, 3 plates, for Lathom; 2nd and 3rd *gules*, 3 human legs conjoined at the thighs, armed, in triangle *argent*, spurs *or*, for Isle of Man; 4th as the first.

Within the sepulchral chapel, near the foot of the bishop's tomb, "on each side of the east window, is a demi-angel, which forms the corbel of a niche on both sides of it: these angels support escutcheons: the one on the south side bears the arms of the See of Ely, viz. :—3 ducal crowns, and the other on the north is charged in the dexter chief with a roundel, on which is sculptured the letter S, and in the sinister chief an eagle's leg erased with an ibex couchant in base, which appears to have been a favourite device of either the bishop, or his natural son Sir John Stanley."

We have seen that his retainers bore the eagle's foot on their livery at Flodden.

The following account of the exhumation of the bishop's remains, in the year 1812, is of great interest, and confirms the chronicler's statement as to his heroic proportions.

"The tomb of James Stanley . . . was opened on the 15th of June, 1812, in the presence of the Rev. C. D. Wray and Mr. Thomas Barritt. In order to ascertain whether the body was buried in the tomb above ground, the west corner stone of the tomb was carefully removed, when the tomb was found to be solid, filled up in the middle with stones and mortar well cemented together. Going then into the little chapel, a hole was made in the ground close to the middle of the tomb, when, about a yard below, and under the tomb, a skeleton was found lying at length, consisting of the two thigh-bones (twenty inches long), the four leg-bones, the large leg-bone (sixteen inches long), the two hip-bones, the arm-bones complete, the os-sacrum, the skull decayed on one side, the toe and finger-bones nearly complete.

"Above the body were found large quantities of stones, as if for the foundation for the tomb.

"The body was laid not quite *under the middle* of the tomb, but more on the left side, rather more within the little chapel. The head lay about twelve or fourteen inches out from under the west end of the tomb; *i.e.*, the tomb has not completely covered the body. The feet reached to the bottom of the brass plate which has the inscription on. The Bishop, I should judge from his bones, must have been six feet high. A black mark was perceptible in the ground in the shape of a coffin, which was evidently the decayed wood—oak probably. Two large flat stones or flags formed the bottom of the tomb. The fingers were found close to the shoulders and head, which proves that his arms were laid across."

On the 21st March, 1831, the tomb was again opened, and the remains found in the same condition as before. "The thigh bone was exactly twenty inches long, and if we multiply it four times, which is the general criterion of the anatomist, the bishop must have measured six feet eight inches in height. The bones were then carefully restored to their old position." (*Hist. of Manch. Foundations.*)

The writer of the "Rhyming Chronicle," so

often quoted, which ends with the year 1562, was Thomas Stanley, Bishop of Man,—himself somewhat of a *bon vivant* if we may credit contemporary report. "The Bishop of Man, Thomas Stanley," writes the Bishop of Durham to his Grace of Canterbury, "liveth here at his ease as merry as Pope Joan." He was also, like his kinsman, at one time rector of Winwick.

An engraving, somewhat inaccurate, of Bishop Stanley's brass may be seen in the "History of the Foundations in Manchester," before referred to.

In the writer's copy of Boutell's "Monumental Brasses of England," is fastened a wood-engraving of this brass, designed and executed by Mr. R. B. Utting with his usual skill and accuracy. Whether this plate was made to illustrate some work or not, the writer is ignorant.

Ralph Caterall, Esquire, and Elizabeth
his Wife, and their Children.

Ralph Caterall, Esquire, and Elizabeth, his Wife, and their Children.

A.D. 1515.

Whalley, Lancashire.

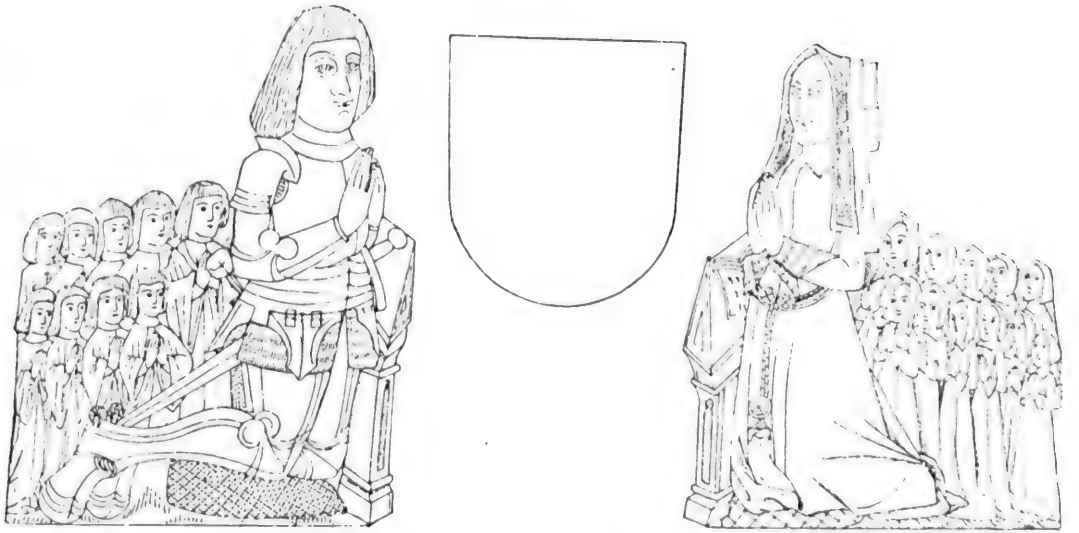
THIS brass is fixed to an oaken board, which is fastened against a pillar in the Mitton Chantry of Whalley Church. For a long time it was in private hands, and has been only comparatively recently restored to its old position in the church, through the instrumentality of the then vicar, Dr. T. D. Whitaker.

At the time when he wrote his celebrated "History of Whalley" the brass was still missing, and it is thus referred to in that work:—"Within or adjoining to the North Chapel was a brass plate with the figures of a man (in armour) and woman (each) kneeling before a desk. Behind the father were nine sons and behind the mother eleven daughters. . . . The plate was in the possession of Robert Sherburne of Mitton, Esq., in 1659, and is now lost." In the author's copy of the book is a MS. marginal note in his

handwriting, "*Note.*—Since that time I found it at Caterall Hall, and by favour of Sir John Shelley, Bart., the owner, have replaced it in its original position. T. D. W."

The story was that it had been dug up out of Garstang churchyard. The following interesting account of the recovery of the Caterall brass is given in the "Handbook of Whalley" by the Rev. Robert Nowell Whitaker, the vicar (*John Heywood, Manchester, 1884*) :—

"Many years after the History of Whalley was finished, and when the author was engaged on the History of Richmondshire, he chanced to visit Cockersand Abbey, near Lancaster, and in the parlour at Caterall Hall, an old farm-house near Garstang, belonging to Lady Shelley (the descendant of the Cateralls of Mytton, and formerly Miss Winckley of Winckley), he discovered a brass plate hung up, which upon examination he found to be the identical missing memorial from the chapel in Whalley Church, which had been lost for so many years. He made application to Lady Shelley to know if she had any objection to its removal to the old situation. She kindly replied 'None in the world.' Consequently it was restored." It is



1515.

RALPH CATERALL, ELIZABETH, HIS WIFE, AND CHILDREN.

Whalley Church, Lancashire.

most pleasant to be able to give this little narrative, so creditable to Lady Shelley, as in some measure a set-off to the iconoclasm, or, even worse, the sheer indifference, to which our monumental brasses too often fall a prey. A similar account of this incident is given in Dobson's "Rambles by the Ribble" (*2nd Series, p. 19, Preston, W. Dobson, 1877*).

On the dexter side (*i.e.*, on the spectator's *left*), kneels Ralph Caterall, attired in plate armour, and girt with sword and dagger. His hands, which are ungauntletted, are raised in prayer. He kneels upon a cushion before a reading desk or *pric-Dieu*.

His face is smooth-shaven, and his hair long, and cut low upon the forehead. On his feet he wears the heavy-looking *sabbatons* then in fashion, and the whole style of his armour is similar to that of Sir Ralph Assheton, Henry Norris, and others of the same period.

Behind him stand nine sons, all habited in long gowns with loose sleeves, and with their hands raised in prayer. They wear their hair cut similarly to their father, and there seems to be some sign of the tonsure upon the head of the one nearest to him.

Opposite to her husband, before a desk, upon which is an open book, kneels Dame Elizabeth, upon a cushion, attired in pedimental head-dress, a plain close-fitting gown with fur cuffs, and an ornamental girdle and chain. Her dress closely resembles those of Clemence Norris, Margaret Bulkley, and others who figure in this book. Behind her, in plain robes, with pedimental head-dresses, stand her little following of eleven daughters, all of whom, as well as their mother, have their hands joined in prayer.

Between the figures of the husband and wife is the hollowed bed which formerly contained a shield, bearing, in all probability, the Caterall arms, *azure* 3 mascles, *or*.

Beneath the figures is the following inscription :

"Of yo^r charyte pray for the sowllys of Raffe Catterall Esquyer and Elizabeth hys wyfe whyche bodies lyeth Before thys pellor and for all ther chyldēr sowlys, whych Rafe descesyd the xxvj day of decēber y yere of ō lord god MCCCCCXV On whose sowlys Ihu have mercy, amen."

The Cateralls, of Caterall in Amunderness, and of Little Mitton, were an ancient family, tracing their descent from one Rufus shortly after the Conquest.

Ralph, whose brass is here portrayed, was son and heir of Richard Caterall. His wife Elizabeth was daughter of James Baker of Rawcliffe. In the pedigree of the family given in Whitaker's History of Whalley, the names of all the children are not given. Those there enumerated are, sons, John, James, William, Thomas, Giles, Richard, Elleys, and Robert; daughters, Isabel, Margaret, Alice, Agnes, Grace, Anne, and Catherine.

In the revised edition of Dr. Whitaker's work is a small but accurate and good engraving of this brass by Mr. R. B. Utting.

Edmund Assheton, Priest.

Edmund Assheton, Priest.

A.D. 1522.

Middleton, Lancashire.

UPON the pavement of the Chancel of Middleton Church lies the brass of "Magister Edmundus Assheton," once rector of the church. The brass consists of the effigy of a priest, and immediately beneath it the inscription, upon a long piece of the same metal.

Edmund Assheton is represented in Eucharistic vestments of a very simple pattern. He wears merely the *alb*, *chasuble*, and *amice*, and these have no ornamental border nor *orphrey-work*, but a plain and simple edge.

In his hand is a chalice containing the sacramental wafer, which bears the letters J.H.S. ("Jesus hominum salvator.") He is, of course, shaven on face and crown in true priestly fashion, and his countenance, which is more expressive than the majority of brasses, is somewhat wrinkled.

The inscription is noteworthy as giving, in

addition to the date, the dominical letter of the year. It is as follows:—"Hic jacet Magister Edmundus Assheton Rector istius ecclesie qui obiit vicesimo die mensis augusti anno domini millimo ccccc° vicesimo secundo lrā dmcalis E cujus aīme ppicietur deus. Amen." ("Here lies Master Edmund Assheton, Rector of this Church, who died on the 20th day of the month of August, in the year of our Lord 1522, and the Dominical Letter E. Upon whose soul may God have mercy. Amen.")

Taken altogether, the brass is a good one, simple and graceful, but not lacking boldness of design.

Edmund Assheton's supposed parentage has been referred to in the description of the brass of Sir Ralph Assheton. The following further remarks on this subject are taken from the Chetham Society's Publications, Vol. 37 (1855), p. 28:—

"Edmund Assheton, Clerk, Rector of Middleton, appears in the MS. pedigree of the family deduced by Mr. Vernon, of Shakerley, in 1676, as the third and youngest son of Sir Richard Assheton, Knight, the third head of his family seated at Middleton, and of his wife Ann,

1522.
EDMUND ASSHETON.
Middleton Church, Lancashire.

daughter of Sir Robert Foulhurst, of Crewe, in the county of Chester, Knight. A computation of dates would, however, rather lead to the conclusion that he was the uncle of that distinguished individual, whose father died 28th April, 1507, and in the following year his son and heir, Richard, was found by inquisition to be of the age of twenty-six years (born about 1482), and not likely to have a son Rector of Middleton when he himself was not more than thirty-four years of age. The Rector was therefore more probably the son of Sir Ralph Assheton, who had married the heiress of the Bartons, one of whom he succeeded in the living of Middleton about the year 1493. On the 6th June, 3 Hen. VIII., George Atherton, of Atherton, Esq., conveyed to Richard Assheton, of Middleton, Esq., Edmund Assheton, Clerk, of Middleton, and John Hopwood, of Hopwood, Esq., all his lands in Ashton-in-Makerfield, etc. *(Lancs. MSS., Vol. xiv., p. 76.)* Edmund Assheton occurs in the MS. pedigree as living 13 Hen. VIII. (1521), and it is there noted: 'In the Parish church of Middleton, on a brasse plate on a tomb I find this inscription (which is quoted). I guesse this to be this Edmund.'"

The valuable advowson of St. Leonard's Church being attached to the manor of Middleton, the living was frequently enjoyed by members of the Assheton family. In three centuries there were ten Rectors who bore the name of Assheton. (*Notes to "Iter Lancastrense, Chet. Soc. Pub., 1845).* Edmund Assheton is erroneously supposed by Dr. Whitaker to have been the rebuilder of Middleton Church: the real builder was Cardinal Langley, Bishop of Durham, a native of the parish.

An engraving of this brass is given in Boutell's "Monumental Brasses of England."

Henry Morris, Esquire, and Clemence,
his Wife.

Henry Norris, Esquire, and Clemence, his Wife.

A.D. 1524.

Childwall, Lancashire.

THE figures of Henry Norris, Esquire, and Clemence, his wife, as shown in the accompanying plate, are all that now remain of their ancient monument; the stone slab to which they were affixed, the commemorative inscription, and the coats of arms which in all probability formed part of the original design, have long since disappeared. When the ancestral home of the Norris family at Speke (some four or five miles distant from Childwall) was sold, at the beginning of this century, the floor of the Norris Chancel was broken up, and these brasses were removed from their previous position.

They remained for a long time neglected, and were subsequently fixed up in the vestry, but in 1853 were removed to their present position, within an arched recess on the wall of the south

aisle, and a brass plate was then put up, bearing the following inscription :—

"In memory of Henry Norris of Speke, Esq^r. Ob. July 7, 1524. Aetat. 46. and of Clemence his wife, Daughter of Sir J. Harrington. Mar^d July 8, 1500. Removed from the tomb of the Norris', 1760. Placed here 1853."

Both figures are in a very fair state of preservation, though the eagle or falcon quartered upon the cape of Henry Norris's tabard, and the armorial bearings upon the lady's cloak are almost obliterated in parts, and have been slightly restored in the annexed drawing. The esquire is represented in plate armour with heavy *sabbatons*, or steel foot gear, and spurs; that on the right heel is missing. He is bare-headed, and has flowing hair worn low upon the forehead, according to a fashion illustrated in many contemporary brasses.

He is girt with sword and dagger, and his head rests upon a helmet crowned with the Norris crest, an eagle, and partially covered with the *lambrequin*, or mantling.

Clemence, his wife, wears the pedimental head gear so common in contemporary examples, and familiar to us from the old designs of queens

on playing-cards. She wears a simple flowing gown with an ornamental girdle, and, over all, a cloak, fastened at the neck with a clasp.

Both figures have crosses suspended by chains about their necks, that of the lady being hidden by her hands, which are joined in the attitude of prayer, as are those of her husband.

The armorial devices emblazoned upon the apparel of both figures have evidently been at one time enamelled in colours, but no trace of this ornamentation now remains. The arms upon Henry Norris's tabard are inaccurately blazoned; the frets should have been in the second and third quarters, and the first and fourth should have been *argent* only; the arms of Erneys ought to have been quartered by Norris as a separate shield. Clemence Norris bears upon her cloak the arms of her father, Sir James Harrington, quartered with those of her mother, Isabel Radcliffe of Ordsall. It is noticeable that the Radcliffe arms are represented by a bend instead of by two bendlets, but such inaccuracies are not uncommon in heraldic delineation, and in the Ordsall brass in Manchester Cathedral only one bend is shown.

The value of the armorial bearings upon

Clemence's cloak is shown by the fact that they have supplied the only means (in the absence of the original inscription on the monument) of identifying these brasses as the effigies of Henry Norris and his wife. Had we been left to draw inferences from the style of his armour and her costume alone, we should have been at a loss to substantiate a decided preference of Henry Norris, who died in 1524, to his father, Sir William, whose death took place in 1506.

The Norris family no longer inhabits the picturesque old family mansion at Speke, but it was for many generations associated with it, and a number of the family were interred in the Parish Church at Childwall.

The earliest member of the ancient Lancashire house of Norris of whom any record is left, is Hugh le Noreis, Norensis, or Noricus, who seems to have become possessed of estates at Blackrod between the years 1189 and 1199. A descendant of his was that Mabelle la Noreise who married Sir William de Bradeshagh, and whose pathetic and romantic story still clings to and survives in the quaint old monument known as "Mab's Cross," at Wigan. The Norrises of Speke are said to have come from Sutton, but

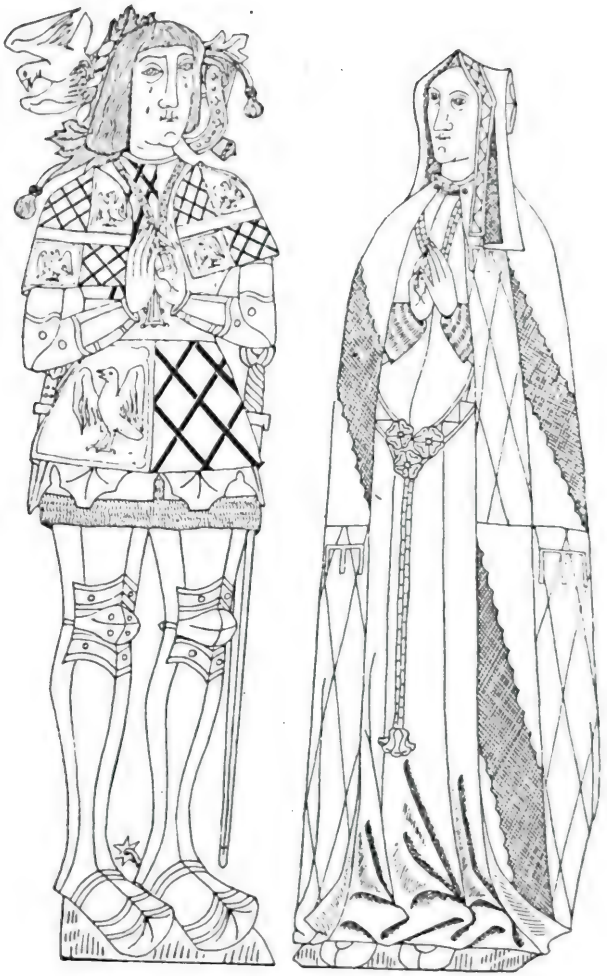
they were settled at Speke (the "Spec" of the Doomsday Survey) for several generations before the alliance (*temp.* Richard II.) of Sir Henry le Norres, Knight, with Alice, sole heiress of Roger Erneys, of Chester, brought the manor of Speke into their family.

Henry Norris, whose brass we are considering, was born in or about the year 1481, and in 1506 succeeded to the family estates. By his will he "settled his lands on his son William, in tail male, with remainder to his second son, Thomas, and so on in tail male, bequeathing his goods to his wife, Clemence, 'to help to marry Anne, his daughter,' afterwards wife of Percival Harrington, of Huyton." Clemence, as already mentioned, was fifth daughter and co-heiress of Sir James Harrington, of Wolfage, Northamptonshire. Her brother, William Harrington, perished with his wife while attempting to ford the Mersey, near Northenden, and was buried at Mobberley.

Henry Norris fought at Flodden Field with Sir William Molyneux's contingent. Of Sir William himself, and other Lancashire knights who won distinction on that day, we shall have occasion to speak later.

Henry Norris's son, Sir William Norris, Knight,

and his grandson, William Norris, Esq., were both engaged in the Scottish wars. The former, and probably the latter also, was present at the burning of Edinburgh, in 1544, by the Earl of Hertford. Sir William brought home to Speke several trophies of victory. Of these perhaps the most interesting are fourteen folio volumes of an ancient work on Civil Law, beautifully printed in black-letter, with initial letters in red and blue, and handsomely bound in leather with metal clasps, taken, in all probability, from the Royal Library, at Holyrood. In each of these volumes the knight has entered, in a quaint hand, a memorandum, of which the following is a specimen (as quoted in Baines' "Lancashire"):—"M^{d} y^{t} Edyn-Borow wasse wone ye viii daye off May ano xxxvj° H viii et Ano Dni m° ccccc° xliiii° and y^{t} y^{is} boke called 'Bartolus sup prim' Degesti veteris' was gotty and brougth aways by me Will'm Norres of ye Speike K(nt) y^{s} xi daye off May foursaide and now ye boke of me ye fouresaide S^{r} Will'm genĕ and by me left to remayne att Speike for an ay'e looome. In witteness whe'of (I have) wryty y^{is} w^{t} my none hande and subscribed my name. P^{r} me Will'm Norres, night." These



1524.

HENRY NORRIS, AND CLEMENCE, HIS WIFE.

Childwall Church, Lancashire.

volumes are now in the library of the Athenæum, at Liverpool.

It used to be supposed, in accordance with popular tradition, that the handsome oak wainscot in the great hall at Speke was brought bodily by Sir William from Holyrood Palace as a further memento of fortune's favours towards him on that memorable day; but antiquaries have latterly held the opinion that, if any such spoils were taken from Holyrood, they were only "some figures resembling the carved supporters of ancient roofs, which are still connected with the wainscot." At the battle of Musselburgh, or Pinkie, William, the younger, was slain (Sept. 10, 1547), at the age of twenty-five years, and he is expressly mentioned by Hollinshed among the gentlemen of the Duke of Somerset's band who took part in the desperate charge on the Scottish pikemen. Sir William is also thought to have been present, for among the Harl. MS., 1997 86B, is a pen-and-ink drawing appended to a copy of Sir William Norris's "Declaration," executed about 1590, representing the pennon, or *gwyddon*, of David Boswell, of Balmuto, whose grandsons fell in the battle, under which is written :—"This was taken by Sir William Norres, Knight, in Scotland."

A long series of knights and esquires continued the family through the stormy Civil Wars (in which the family traditions were consistently Royalist) down to the early part of the eighteenth century, when "Thomas Norris and his brothers dying without issue male, were succeeded by Thomas's daughter, Mary, heiress to her father and uncles, who, on the 9th November, 1736, married Lord Sydney Beauclerk, a worthless fortune-hunter, the fifth son of Charles, first Duke of St. Albans.

His son, Topham Beauclerk, was a man well-known in the circles of literature, an associate of Johnson and Reynolds; he married, in 1768, Lady Diana Spencer, of the Marlborough family, who had been divorced from Lord Bolingbroke for an intrigue with Mr. Beauclerk. They do not appear to have had any family, and he died in 1780, having dismembered the estates, already heavily mortgaged. Speke Manor was sold to Richard Watt, Esquire, who, having been a stable-boy in an inn in Liverpool, went out to the West Indies, where he amassed a fortune, and afterwards became a rich merchant of Liverpool; whose great-nephew, Richard Watt, Esquire, afterwards inherited it." *(Baines' "Lancashire.")*

Speke Hall and the estates belong at the present time to Miss Watt, a collateral descendant of the purchaser.

Speke Hall is a very fine specimen of the old Lancashire manor-house, and its black and white timber-and-plaster walls, its moat (now dry), its inner courtyard or quadrangle, its ancient yew-trees, its stained glass windows, rich with ancestral heraldry, but above all, its old dining-hall, make it worthy to be counted high among the antiquities and beauties of the County Palatine.

In the hall, above the chimney-piece, is a carved genealogical tree in oak, representing three generations of the Norris family, with figures of the persons described, the first in the series being Henry and Clemence Norris, with their two sons and three daughters below. Underneath was formerly an inscription, of which, in 1800, only the concluding part remained, as follows :—"who married Clemens, one of the X daughters and heirs of Sir James Harrington, who had by her, William Norris, Thomas, Anne, Clemens, and Jane Norris." This pedigree is supposed to have been put up about 1560, by Sir William Norris, the pillager of Holyrood.

At Childwall Church may be seen one more relic of the Norris family in the shape of a very handsomely carved oaken pew-end, near the chancel. It is surmounted by a poppy-head termination, and exhibits a shield quartered with the arms of Norris and Harrington, the latter quartering Banastre of Walton, and surmounted by a helmet bearing the eagle crest of the Norrises. In former times there used to be some stained glass windows in the church, which are said to have contained Latin inscriptions, invoking prayers for the souls' welfare of several members of the family, and to one of these inscriptions was attached the ancient crest of Norris—a lady's head *couped* at the shoulders and attired *gules*. This cognizance was afterwards changed for the "erne" or eagle of the Ernys family, from whom the Speke estates were derived. We also hear of the effigy of William Norris forming part of one of these windows, attired in a white dress with a "greate brode gurdell," and of a Thomas and a Letitia Norris in blue. The arms of Henry Norris, with the same inaccuracies as appear in his brass, were formerly also blazoned in the stained windows of the old church of St. Nicholas at Liverpool.

A drawing of the brasses of Henry and Clemence Norris, by Mr. H. C. Pidgeon, is engraved in Ormerod's "Miscellanea Palatina," printed in 1851, a valuable work (reprinted from the "Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire,") containing a memoir of the Norris family, to which, among other works, we are indebted for a considerable portion of the foregoing particulars.

Sir Peter Legh, Knight and Priest, and Ellen, his Wife.

Sir Peter Legh, Knight and Priest, and Ellen, his Wife.

A.D. 1527.

Winwick, Lancashire.

THIS monument is one of more than common interest, both on account of certain characteristics which it has as such, and also of the person whom it commemorates.

Considering in the first place the brass itself, it lies in the Parish Church at Winwick, which contains the brass of Piers Gerard, already described. Situate in the Legh Chantry, or Chapel of the Trinity, as it used to be called, on the south side of the church, this monument formerly lay upon the floor, but now the stone slab with its inlaid brasses occupies an upright position against the eastern wall of the chapel. The brass is slightly worn, but is in the main in sound condition.

Among monumental brasses, that of Sir Peter Legh occupies a unique position, being the only instance of an effigy of a composite character so to speak—a quaint blend of the sacred and the

secular—the knight and the priest. Yet Sir Peter was not a member of any of those amphibious fraternities which constituted the church militant of mediæval days. His was only the case, not infrequent in those times, of one who, as the winter of life closed in, sought shelter from its storms within the calm haven of the church.

The biographical sketch which follows will explain this more fully. In the chapter on Costume in Fosbrooke's "British Monuments," page 389, is an engraving of a stone effigy of a knight from Connington, Hunts., who similarly wears a cassock and cowl over his mail. A somewhat similar practice was adopted by knights who held some civil office. Thus William Yelverton, Judge *c.* 1470, at Rougham, Norfolk; Sir John Crosbie, Alderman, 1475, in Great St. Helen's, London; and Sir William Harper, Alderman, 1573, at Bedford, wear their official robes in addition to their armour. *(Oxford Manual of Brasses, page xl.)*

Sir Peter's dual character is rendered all the more piquant by the presence of his lady by his side.

The Oxford Manual describes this as "the brass of a knight in plate armour, bare-headed, and

with his sword at his side. Over the armour he wears a chasuble with ornamental borders, on his breast a shield bearing quarterly of 6 : 1. *argent*, a cross *sable*, in the first quarter a *fleur-de-lys* of the last (we have looked in vain for the *fleur-de-lys*), Haydock ; 2. *gules*, a cross engrailed *argent*, Legh ; 3. a chevron between 3 crosses fleury ; 4. *argent*, a mullet *sable*, Ashton ; 5. Molyneux ; 6. a chevron between 3 covered cups, on a chief 3 lozenges.

" His hands are raised on the sides of the shield.

" His lady wears a pedimental head-dress, a long gown with fur cuffs, above which is a short sideless kirtle of fur secured by a girdle, and over all a mantle bearing on the dexter side a cross, on the sinister, *argent* a pale fusilly *sable*, Savage. Round her neck a T cross is suspended.

" Above the figures a shield is hanging obliquely from a strap, and bearing the 6 quarters above mentioned ; over it a helmet with mantling, and the crest, a ram's head erased, in his mouth a laurel-sprig. Beneath were the figures of children, probably four sons and five daughters.

" There is a marginal inscription with Evangelical symbols (at each of the corners). ' + Orate pro aīabz probi Viri dnī Petri legh Militis Hic

tumulati et dnē Elene ux' eius filie Johīs Savage Militis cuius quid' Elene corpus sepelit' Apud Bewgenett 17 die Mensis, Maij Anno domini Millesimo ccccIxxxxi.' The inscription is resumed beneath the feet of the figures. 'Idem qz petrus post ipsius Elene mortē ī sacerdotem canoīce cōsecrat' obijt apud lyme ī hanley xi° die augusti a° di m° v^c xxvij°.'" ("Pray for the souls of a good man, Sir Peter Legh, knight, buried here, and of Lady Ellen his wife, daughter of Sir John Savage, knight, the body of which Ellen was buried at Bewgenett on the 17th day of the month of May, A.D. 1491 The said Peter after the death of the said Ellen, having been consecrated a priest, died at Lyme in Hanley on the 11th day of August, A.D. 1527.")

Mr. Earwaker, in his "East Cheshire," explains that the round ornament at the end of Dame Ellen's girdle is "a pomander, or small box to hold perfumes." Mr. Earwaker gives the quarterings of Sir Peter's shield thus:—1. Haydock; 2. Legh; 3. Boydell, ancient; 4. Walton of Ulnes Walton; 5. Boydell; 6. Croft of Dalton, and Mutler of Merton, conjoined per fess; and mentions that his seal bears a shield of four quarters, 1 and 4 Haydock, 2 and 3

Legh, with helmet, mantling, and crest, and the inscription, "Sigillum Petri de Legh."

Sir Peter, or Piers Legh was the fifth of that name who represented the old house of Legh of Lyme, in Cheshire, a family which still continues in possession of the ancestral domains. He succeeded his grandfather, Peter Legh, in 1478, at the age of twenty-three, having been born in 1455. His father, Peter Legh, married Mabel, daughter and co-heiress of James Croft, of Dalton, in Lonsdale, county Lancaster, but died in 1468, thus predeceasing his father.

Mabel, Sir Peter's mother, died in 1474, or 1475, at Dalton. Her effigy, and that of her husband may be seen in the chancel of Macclesfield Church. The mention of Macclesfield Church calls up memories of an older Piers Legh buried there, whose faithful adherence to the unfortunate King Richard II. cost him his life. This pathetic story is preserved in his ancient epitaph in the Legh Chapel at Macclesfield Church:

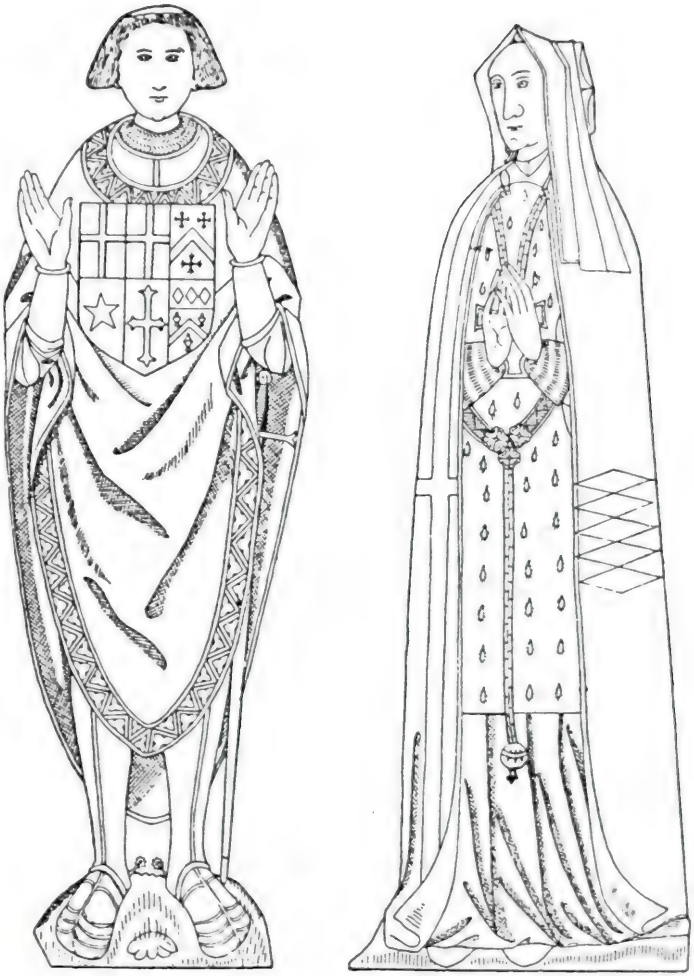
"Here lieth the body of Perkin a Legh,
That for King Richard the death did die,
Betrayed for righteousnesse;
And the bones of Sr. Peers, his sonne,
That with King Henry the Fifth did winne
In Paris."

The earliest event of which we have any record in the life of Sir Peter Legh is his marriage, or perhaps it should more correctly be termed his betrothal, for he was only twelve years old at the time. This was about the year 1467.

His bride was Ellen, daughter of Sir John Savage, by his wife, Catherine Stanley. The bridal pair being within the prohibited degrees of kinship, a Papal dispensation was thought advisable; this is said to have been obtained from Pope Paul II., in 1468. Sir Peter Legh seems to have taken part in the Scottish campaign in the twenty-second year of Edward IV. (1482) under the Duke of Gloucester, and to have served under Lord Stanley in these wars. He was made a banneret at Hutton Field, on 22nd August, in recognition of his bravery, which was further rewarded by a grant for life of an annuity of £10 from the new King, Richard III.

Notwithstanding these royal favours, Sir Peter found himself ranged under his local superior, Lord Stanley, on Bosworth Field, in opposition to Richard. On the 6th June, 1487, he fought at Stokefield in the new King's cause.

On 7th May, 1491, as the monument testifies,



1527.
SIR PETER LEGH AND ELLEN, HIS WIFE.
Winwick Church, Lancashire.

Dame Ellen "shuffled off this mortal coil" at Bewgenett, near Petworth, in Sussex, and Sir Peter was left alone upon life's highway.

In 1496, a question as to the right of quartering the arms of Assheton upon his coat brought the knight to London, and, as we have already seen, James Stanley (afterwards Bishop of Ely) was present. The matter was tried before the Lord Constable, the Earl of Derby. The following is the record of his judgment:—"This bill endented witnesseth that on Holy Rode day in May, the eleventh yere of the reigne of King Henry VII., the Earle of Derby, the Constable of England, in the King's Chambre, at Westminstre, determined that Sir Thomas Assheton, of Assheton, Knight, should bere for his propre arms: *silver*, a molet unpierced of V. points *sabull*, alone or whartly (quarterly) in the first quarter yf moo armes by descent shall or mowe fall to his inheritance. And Sir Peirs a Lygh and his heires shall or mowe bere the same armes whartly, so they be not in the first quarter, with a bezant of gold on the first point, for several weye, that if the forsaid Sir Peirs can any tyme hereafter fynde anie sufficient evidence of auctoritee, and before the constable allowable, that then and in that case he

and his heires shall and mowe bere the forsaid armes whartly and without bezant or other difference. Present at this determination Maist. James Stanley, warden of Manchester, and Sir Edward Stanley, and sonnes of the said erle, etc. And to this I, the said lord and constable, have sett my seale, 11th day of May ye yere before specified."

In 1505, 3rd March, Sir Peter Legh was made Steward of Blackburnshire, Tottington, Rochdale, and Clithero. This was a most lucrative and highly honourable post, and in the royal grant was expressly declared to be conferred upon Sir Peter Legh, in recognition of services rendered to the King.

A little later he was chosen one of the collectors for Lancashire of the proportion due from the county of the royal *aids* levied by the Crown, and compromised by Parliament for the sum of £40,000. On the accession of Henry VIII., Sir Peter Legh obtained two general pardons, one under the great seal of England, the other under that of the Duchy of Lancaster. This was a precautionary measure not infrequently resorted to in those days. In the second year of Henry VIII., he resigned the office of Seneschal

of Blackburnshire, and began to prepare himself for a better world.

He was now advanced in years, and looking back upon his eventful life, his military experiences, and his official career, he saw the vanity of it all, and desired earnestly to reconcile himself to Heaven in the short space left him.

He was but fulfilling a common mediæval ideal. Like King David I. of Scotland,

> "The day he wes bath Kyng and Knycht,
> A monk devote he wes the nycht."

Some are of opinion that it was by the advice of his brother-in-law, Thomas Savage, Archbishop of York, that he took the resolution of devoting his remaining years to the service of the Church. In all subsequent documents he describes himself as "Sir Piers Legh, knight and priest."

About the year 1524, he built the lodge known as "Lyme Cage," and also Disley Chapel, to which he appointed Thomas Davenport to be chaplain and chantry priest. "He seems," says Mr. Beamont ("House of Lyme,") "at one time to have intended to place in it three priests and two deacons, and to make it also a little college," but he died before this project could be carried out. His death occurred at Lyme, on the 11th

August, 1527, at the age of 72, and he was buried at Winwick, in the Legh Chantry. Among the muniments at Lyme are no less than three wills made by Sir Piers Legh, each signed by himself as "knight and priest," and bearing his unusually large private seal. Of these the first is dated 1st February, 1521, in which he bequeaths numerous annuities to his children and others, but appoints no executors. The two other wills are dated respectively 1st December, 1522. "Of the latter, one relates to the disposition of some of his lands, and the other to his funeral. In the former he leaves very stringent injunctions for the support and endowment of Disley Chapel, which he had founded, and also refers to Lyme Hall, the park, the 'ryng pale of the said park,' and the game there. The latter, however, is a most curious and interesting will. In it Sir Piers desires his body 'to be buryed in the Trinite Chapell of Wynwhik afore the myddist of the altar ther', wher as the prest shall alwaies (at) the tyme of consecracon stand even over and upon my harte; thed^r^ to be borne w^th^ my s'uands and oth^r^ cristen people. And my best beist to be broght to the Church for my mortuary. And that my Standert bano^r^ and coote Armo^r^ be had afore my body to the

church in such condicion as shalbe thoght most conuenyent by the aduyse of myn Executo'rs and the same then to be dely'ed into my Chapell at Wynwhik ther to Remayn afterwards.' If he dies within 20 miles of Winwick, his body is to be carried thither upon a horse litter, covered, and the horses to be craped and covered with black, and 'myn armes to be sett on eu'y syde of the littor.' His executors are to buy 40 gowns of black cloth, and 24 gowns of white cloth, to be distributed to poor persons in his employ, who shall go about his body, those in white carrying torches in their hands, the half of which torches shall afterwards be given to Trinity Chapel at Winwick, and the other half to Disley Chapel. The executors are to spend £20 in masses on the day of the funeral, and to provide a fitting dinner at Bradley for all such gentlemen and other honest people as shall come to the funeral. Within a month after his decease, they are to cause 100 priests to say 100 masses and Dirige on one day, that is, 20 masses of Jesus, 20 of the five wounds, 20 of our Lady, 20 of the Holy Ghost, 10 of the Trinity, 10 of Requiem; and every priest 'to have for his trouble 4d.' And every priest is to get a clerk to help him sing

Dirige and mass, and every such clerk to have 2d.; and that at every mass aforesaid there be offered a penny at the lavatory for the testator. His executors are desired to 'bye an ou'ley' (overlay or covering) 'of marbul and lay upon me w^t a pictor aft^r me and my wieff and o^r armes to be set in atho^r' (either) 'of o^r coots and a sup' scripcon to be set on the said ou'ley shewing o^r names and the daies and yeris of o^r decessez.' On every Good Friday for seven years after his decease his executors are to distribute 2s. 6d. amongst the poorest of his tenants in Warrington and Winwick parishes; and also every even of our Lady five years after his decease, 4d. each is to be given to five of the poorest of his said tenants, and that every one of them be required 'to knele upon thar knees w^t in the said Trinite Chapell (on) the said evens and eu'y of thame therfor to say a lady Sauto^r (O Lady, save us) for my Soule.'" *(Earwaker's "East Cheshire.")* The fidelity with which Sir Peter's executors carried out his directions in the matter of his tombstone gives reason to suppose that his injunctions relative to his spiritual welfare were equally well observed.

Sir Peter Legh's children were Peter Legh,

his successor, John, Gowther, Richard, Margaret, and Alice. Gowther Legh was the founder of the Grammar School at Winwick. He left a will (dated 14th April, 1546) somewhat resembling his father's, directing his interment in the Trinity Chapel in Winwick Church, "with suche nomber of black and whyte gownes and cotes, with tapers and torches lighte as my executors think proper." He also directs his executors to "provyde for an honest dynner at my howse of Woodcrofte for my fryndes, gentylmen, and priestes, the day of my buryall." *(Beamont's "History of Winwick.")* The Trinity or Legh Chapel in Winwick Church, before alluded to, was a chantry to which the appointment of priests belonged to the Legh family.

Margaret Bulkeley.

Margaret Bulkeley.

A.D. 1528.

Sefton, Lancashire.

IN a square pew in the south aisle of Sefton Church, near one of the windows, lies the brass of Margaret Bulkeley, whose maiden name was Molyneux.

The figure is a full-front, and represents a lady in a long dress with wide sleeves edged with fur, the dress cut square at the neck. She wears a pedimental head-dress, and a girdle with three roses in front, from which hangs a chain with a tassel or ornament at the end.

Suspended by a chain round her neck is a jewelled T, or St. Anthony's Cross. Her feet, in shoes, appear beneath her robe. Her hands are joined in prayer.

"Above her is a double canopy groined, and in debased style. At the dexter side of the slab are these arms on two shields: 1st, *azure* a cross moline, *or*, for Molyneux; 2nd, a chevron between 3 horse's heads bridled: at the sinister

side, 1st, quarterly 1st and 4th, *argent;* 2nd and 3rd, *gules* a fret, *or*, Dutton; 2nd Molyneux." *(Oxford Manual of Brasses.)*

The inscription is as follows:—"Orate p aīa Margarete ffilie Rici Molyneux Milit' qu°dam ux' Johīs Dutton Armig' dni de dutton et postea ux' Willmi Bulcley Armig' que tuc cātariam ppetuam fundauit ac reddidit' & terras suffiēt' p uno capellāo in ppetmi die celebratur' ac p aīabz ejusdem Margarete paretū & benefactor' suor' exoraturum stabilūt & dotavit que obijt xxj die februarij a°dni xv^c xxviij° cui' aīe ppicietur deus."

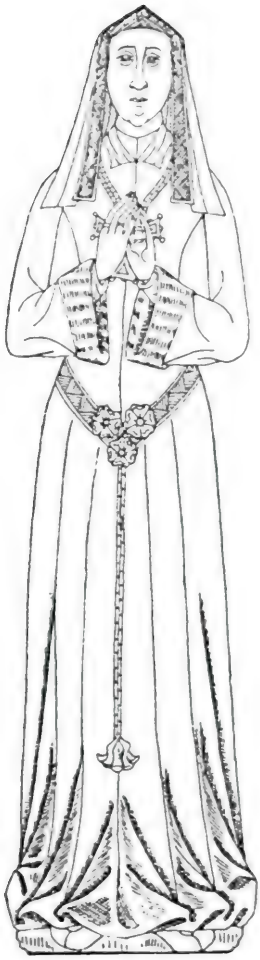
("Pray for the soul of Margaret, daughter of Sir Richard Molyneux, knight, formerly wife of John Dutton, Esquire, lord of Dutton, and afterwards of William Bulcley Esquire; who founded this perpetual chantry and endowed it with rents and lands for one chaplain for ever, to celebrate divine service for the souls of Margaret, her relations, and benefactors: who died the 21st day of February A.D. 1528.")

Margaret Bulkeley, as before stated, was by birth a Molyneux, and this accounts for her affection for the old church where her ancestors and family were buried, and where she herself must often, as a girl, have worshipped.

Her younger brother, James Molyneux, was rector of Sefton Church, and Archdeacon of Richmond. Her elder brother was Sir Thomas Molyneux, who fought for Edward IV. under the Duke of Gloucester in Scotland, at the siege of Berwick, and was made a banneret on the Eve of St. James.

This Sir Thomas was father to Sir William Molyneux, who did such feats of *derring-do* at Flodden, and who also lies interred in Sefton Church, and an engraving of whose brass is given in this volume. Margaret Bulkeley was consequently Sir William's aunt, and she mentions him in her will as "my nevewe." Her two marriages have been mentioned in the inscription above quoted. Her affection for her birthplace was shown by her foundation of the chantry in Sefton Church referred to in her epitaph, and by the fact of her burial there. "In the middle south window of the church is an inscription invoking the prayers of the reader for Margett Bulcley, daughter of Sir Richard Molyneux, knight, and wyff unto Joh^{e} Dutton and Will^{m} Bulcley, Esq., whose goodness caused this window to be made of the will of Sir Robt Pkynson Executor to the said Margett the yere of

o^r^ Lord 1543." This Sir Robert Perkinson was the chantry priest of her institution, and is mentioned in her will, dated 4th November, 1528 (20 Henry VIII.), a long and curious document. It begins thus:—"In the name of God, Amen. I, Margaret Bulkley Wydowe, Late wyff of Wyll'm Bulkley Esquyer, to all Cristen people in Crist beleyving, to whome this my present Wrytyng Indentid tripertite shall come, or it shall here or see, Sendith gretyng in our Lord God everlastyng. Knowe ye me the said Margaret Bulkley to have Enfeoffed my full trusty fryndes Wyll'm Leylond, Alexander Radcliff, John Towneley, Alexander Osbaldeston, Thomas Sotheworth, knyghtes; Edmund Trafford, Peers Leegh, Henry ffaryngton, Wyll'm Norres, Thomas Irland, Robert Molyneux, of Hawton, John Atherton, Thomas Leylond, Henry Blundell, esquyers; Edward Molyneux, Person of Sefton, Wyll'm Longley, Person of Prestwich, Clerkes; Robert Molyneux of Mellyng, Wyll'm Bradshagh of Uplythreland, James Blundell of Ince, Gentilmen; and Robert Perkynson Chappelayn, of and in all my meses (messuages) lands, ten'ts, etc., within the townes of Cuerden, Walton in the Dale, and Thorneton, within the



1528.
MARGARET BULKELEY.
Sefton Church, Lancashire.

Countie of Lancastre." The above mentioned feoffees were to permit the testatrix to enjoy the rents and profits of the lands during her life, and after her death to apply the same in liquidating any of her debts which her personal goods might be insufficient to satisfy, and, subject to such payment of debts, to hold the aforesaid lands, etc., "to the use exibicon fyndyng and kepyng of an able and honest p'ist to say and Celebrate Masse and other Dyvyne s'uyce in the p'oche Church of Sefton at the Alter of our blessyd ladye of petye, And to pray for the Saule of me the seid Margaret, And for the saules of John Dutton and Wyll'm Bulkley Esquyers, my husbandes, And for the Saules of my ffader and moder, brethern and Susters, my vncles, the Saule of S^r^ Wyll'm Leylond, knyght, my nevewe, and all other my p'genyte and good frynds, and for all Cristen Saules for eu^r^more." Then come lengthy and elaborate directions as to the duties of the priest in the chantry founded by her. "Also it is my will that the seid p'ist shall say eu'y quarter of the yere Placebo, Dirige, Comendacon, and Masse of Requiem, with all Suffrages and s'uyces p'teynyng therunto for my Saule and the saules aforesaid; Also it is my will that the said p'ist shall say yerely and for

eu'more that day wech I shall fortune to decesse vppon or within thre dayes next followyng, an Obite with all suffrages therunto belongyng for my saule and the saules aforeseid; And that the seid p'ist shall say Masse eu'y Sonday, Wednesday, and ffryday except ther be a resonable cause, And other dayes when he is disposed.

"And at the further Lavatorye to say De p'fundis and pray for my Saule and the Saules afore rehersed and all Cristen Saules for evermore, And also to say eu'y quarter of the yere for eu' on Masse de no'ie Ihu vppon the fryday, and fyve tymes eu'y yere Masse of the fyve woundes of our Lord Ihu Crist for my Saule, the Saules afore rehersed, and all Cristen Saules. Also it is my will that such p'ist as shall be put to obs'ue the said s'uyce shall be an able and honest p'ist and lerned to syng his playn song and to helpe to syng in the quère at Matyns, Masse, evensong and other dyuyne s'uyce in the seid Church of Sefton on festfull dayes. And also it is my will that the seid p'ist shall say Masse vppon Saynt Margarett's day yerely for eu' afore the ymage of Saynt Margaret within the said Church and to pray for my Saule and the Saules aforesaid.

"Also it is my will that the seid p'ist shall say

yerely for eu^r^ in the fyve pryncipall ffests of our Lady and the visitacon of our Lady eu'y one of theym and within their V'tas thre tymes Masse of the seid fests, with this Collecte, Deus firma spes n're redempco'is. And also it is my will that my said feoffes and their heires shall suffre the seid p'ist for tyme beyng to occupie and Manure" (*i.e.*, manœuvre, manage: so used in Milton's 'Paradise Lost') "all the seid mēses &c to his most p'fet and behove by thadvice and ou^r^ sight of my seid feoffes and their heires, without takyng of Incomes of the ten'nts for tyme beyng." Then come directions as to appointment of new trustees, and a direction to exchange a windmill and lands in Thornton for other land with "S^r^ Wyll'm Molyneux, knyght, my nevewe, or his heires."

Next follow provisions for the appointment of priests to serve her chantry, the right of appointment to belong in the first instance to her nephew, Sir William Molyneux, and his heirs male. "Also it is my will that all the evidences conc^r^nyng all the lands aboue rehersed shall aft' my decesse be put in a Coffre and Remayne in the Custodye and kepyng of the Abbot and Covent of Whalley and their Successors for eu^r^ wherof the said Abbot to have one key, my seid

feoffes an other key and the p'ist for the tyme beyng the thrid key. And the same evidences to be forth comyng at all tymes for the defence of the seid lands accordyng to this my Will. Also it is my will that if there be no p'ist admytted to the said s'vyce in my liff, that then my seid feoffes and their heires shall admytt first the above seid Robert Perkynson Chapellayn to the seid s'uyce if he then be on lyve."

This document has a small and beautiful seal attached, bearing the cross moline. (*Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancs. and Ches., Vol. 34, p. 130*).

It should be noticed that among the "feoffees" mentioned in the will are Piers Legh and William Norris, presumably the sons of Sir Peter Legh, knight and priest, and of Henry Norris, Esq., whose brasses have already been described. In the Reports of the Royal Commissioners of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Queen Mary, the Chantry is thus mentioned :—

"The Chauntrie at the alter of o^r^ Lady w^t^hin the p'och churche of Sefton,—Roberte Parkinson p^r^iste Incumbent ther of the ffoundacon of Margaret Bulkley to celebrate ther for the sowlez of hir and hir antecessors. The sam is at the alter of

o[r] lady w.hin the said churche, and the sam prest doth celebrate ther according to the ordinance of his ffoundacon. First one chalez poiz by est vj. onz. I[t] ij. olde vestments. I[t] one masse boke. . . . The said prest hayth in his owne occupacon one wynde mylle standing in Thornton, by yere xx[s]. *(Chetham Society's Publications, Vol. 59, Lancashire Chantries, p. 109).*

Alice Laurence and her two Husbands.

Alice Laurence and her two Husbands.

A.D. 1531.

Middleton, Lancashire.

AS originally executed, this monument comprised the figures in brass of Alice Laurence and *three* husbands, two of whom were on her right, and the third upon her left hand.

The outermost figure upon her right has been lost, but the *matrix* in the stone slab indicates its outline: the effigy is said to have been that of a yeoman; her remaining husbands, in the armour of esquires, still support her, one on either hand.

Alice, or Alicia, wears the pedimental headdress so familiar to us, a long dress fitting tightly to the body, and cut square at the throat, and disclosing an undergarment of muslin or lawn, and inner sleeves of the same substance. She has wide fur trimming to the sleeves of her dress. A handsomely ornamented belt and pendant adorns her waist. She is represented in full front, and has her hands joined in prayer.

On her right hand is one of her husbands, with smoothly shaved face and long hair, cut straight on the forehead, and hanging down on either side. His plate armour is of a late pattern, and in the scroll-like ornaments upon the breast-plate, tuilettes, and knee and elbow-plates, shows something of the effect which the Renaissance was producing upon the design of armour, which it influenced as it did every other branch of art. He wears sword and dagger, but no gloves; his hands are raised in prayer. His feet have flat-shaped *sabbatons*.

The husband upon Dame Alice's left hand, in general appearance very closely resembles him whom we have been describing, but his armour is less ornate.

Both figures are poorly drawn. They face slightly inward towards their wife. Below the figures is a long strip of brass, bearing in quaint old-English type the following inscription :—" Hic jacet Alicia Laurence quondam ux' Johannis Laurence Ricardi Radclyffe de Tower et Thome Bothe de Hakensall Armiger que obijt Vicesimo Septimo die Marcii Anno dni millimo CCCCC°XXXJ° lra dmcalis A. Quorū Animabus propicietur deus AMEN." (" Here lies Alice

1531.

ALICE LAURENCE AND HER HUSBANDS.

Middleton, Lancashire.

Laurence, formerly wife of John Laurence, Richard Radclyffe of Tower, and Thomas Bothe of Hakensall, Esquire, who died on the 27th day of March in the year of our Lord, 1531, Dominical letter A. On whose souls may God have mercy. Amen.")

It should be noticed that the very uncommon practice of mentioning the Dominical letter in addition to the date occurs both in this inscription and in that of Edmund Assheton, priest, whose brass is adjoining.

At the corners of the stone slab were formerly four shields. The two at the head of the stone are all that now remain. The first one bears the blazon of the Asshetons of Middleton.

This brass, it should be remembered, commemorates the wife, who is decidedly the most important personage of the group, and probably was considered of better family and standing than any of her husbands.

Alice Laurence was by birth an Assheton, being second daughter of Sir Richard Assheton and Isabel Talbot: sister to Sir Richard, the Flodden hero, and (probably) aunt to Edmund, the priest. Therefore in the church where her ancestry were buried, the living of which, the

Sir William Molyneux, Knight, and Jane and Elizabeth, his Wives.

A.D. 1548.

Sefton, Lancashire.

ON a flat stone at the foot of the chancel steps of the fine old church of Saint Helen at Sefton, lies the monument of Sir William Molyneux with his two wives, one on either hand. Above his head is a shield bearing Molyneux, *azure* a cross moline *or;* the crest, a plume of peacock's feathers; and two banners (one of which is now lost).

Over the head of the first wife are her arms upon a lozenge. Beneath the figures is another escutcheon bearing quarterly of 12, viz., Molyneux, Garnet, Villars, Keiton, Ellot, Thweng, Holland, Heyton, Haydock, Dutton, Thornton, and Misshull. Below the shield is the motto, "En droit devant." The inscription, upon another brass plate, gives briefly the most salient features of Sir William's history and character. "Guillielmus Molineux Miles dominus de Sefton

ter adversus Scotos regnante in Anglia Rege Henrico octavo in proelium missus fortiter se gessit maxime vero apud ffloyden ubi duo armorum vexilla scotis strenue resistentibus sua manu coepit. In pace cunctis charus amicos consilio egenos eleemosinis sublevavit. Duas uxores habuit, priorem Janam Richardi Rugge in comitatu Salopie militis unicam filiam et heredem ex qua Richardum Janam et Annam posteriorem Elizabetham filiam et heredem Cutberti Clifton armigeri ex qua Guilielmū Thomā et Anam genuit. Annos 65 vixit hic in spe resurrectionis cum maioribus requiescit Anno domini 1548 mense Julij." ("William Molineux, Knight, lord of Sefton, having been three times sent to fight against the Scots in the reign of King Henry VIII. of England, behaved with great bravery, but especially at Flodden, where he captured with his own hand two standards of arms from the Scots in spite of a fierce resistance. In peace, dear to all, he assisted his friends with his counsel, the needy with his charity. He had two wives, the first Jane, only daughter and heiress of Richard Rugge, knight, in the county of Salop, by whom he had Richard, Jane, and Anne: the other, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Cuthbert

Clifton, Esquire, by whom he had William, Thomas, and Anne. He lived 65 years, and rests here among his ancestors in hope of the resurrection. In the year of our Lord 1548, and the month of July)."

The date appears to have stood originally as 1546, and to have been subsequently altered to 1548.

Sir William Molyneux's brass is of interest as illustrating the change in armour which took place about the middle of the sixteenth century. He is arrayed in plate armour of a pattern then in vogue, being less cumbrous than the earlier styles, and with more ornament about it. Beneath his knee-guards are small crescents: he has fringed gauntlets, his hands being clasped in prayer. He wears beard and moustaches. The most notable features are the *tuilettes*, or thigh-guards, which at this period have become greatly elongated, and the hood of chain-mail in place of a helmet. This chain coif or hood is precisely similar to those met with in the earliest brasses, the warriors of Edward I.'s days, and appears to have struck Mr. J. G. Waller as so incongruous that he starts the supposition that in the precipitancy of his summons to Scotland, Sir William was forced to

levy contributions upon the armour of his ancestors (which, in support of this theory, we must assume to have been hanging in his ancestral hall). See the paper by Mr. Waller in "Transactions of Historic Society of Lancs. and Ches.," Vol. 2, p. 248. This theory is also adopted by the Rev. A. Hume in his paper read before the same Society *(Transactions, Vol. 5, p. 186.* See also *Haines' Manual of Brasses, pp. lii., cxiii., and cxxii.).*

About his neck is a handsome collar or chain, with a stone brooch in front, but without a cross or other pendant.

The cross moline, however, of his family appears upon his breast-plate, apparently being enamelled or inlaid in the armour. He is girt with sword and dagger.

On either side are the figures of his wives, both attired in pedimental head-dresses and wearing narrow necklaces.

They have wide cuffs to their sleeves, and chain girdles with a long piece of pendant chain sustaining a jewelled ornament. All three figures are well drawn, and there is a good deal of originality and freshness in their design—an uncommon quality in monumental brasses.

They are, however, blemished by too great a profusion of cross-shading, which destroys the breadth of effect.

The Molyneux are one of the oldest of our Lancashire houses. From the time of the Conquest, and for many centuries afterwards, they lived at Sefton, but the only vestige of their old dwelling now left is the moat which once surrounded the hall.

The Molyneux family traces its descent from William des Molines, so named from Moulins, a town of Bourbonnois in France, "who is named the eighteenth in a list of Norman warriors, given by Holinshed, and prefixed, as a citation from 'the Chronicles of Normandy,' to his copy of the Battle Abbey Roll, with which latter unauthentic document Collins and Wotton in their several Baronetages confound it." *(Ormerod's Miscellanea Palatina—Article on the Norris family).*

"Soon after the Conquest he acquired by gift of Roger de Poictou the Lordship of Sefton, Thornton, and Kerden, and made Sefton his chief seat. According to others, it was to Vivian, his son, that these manors were given; however this may be, Adam de Mulyneus (son of Vivian and his wife Siwarda) held half a Knights' fee in

Ceffton, and gave lands to the Abbey of Cockersand under the seal of the cross moline." (*Baines' Lancashire.*)

The family owned the manor of Speke before it came into the hands of the Norrises.

Sir William, whose commemorative brass lies before us, must have been born, if we compute the date from his epitaph, in 1483. The great events of his life seem to have been his three Scottish campaigns, culminating in the famous victory of Flodden Field.

In this battle, as his epitaph states, he captured "sua manu," two standards from the enemy, which were both formerly delineated above the shield on his tomb, but, as before stated, one only now remains. This is the banner of the Earl of Huntley. "It represents on a field *gules*, ships or galleys *argent;* a falcon rising *or*, between a stag in his course and a greyhound running or *courant, argent;* in the point the *cri-de-guerre* or war-cry 'clanc-tout.' In the draught at Herald's College this is read *clang-toye.* The monument doubtless is the more correct authority. It has been explained as signifying 'call all' or *clamez-tout.* This does not appear satisfactory, as it is founded on an erroneous reading. The other

1548.

SIR WILLIAM MOLYNEUX AND HIS WIVES.

Sefton Church, Lancashire.

banner is also delineated at Herald's College, from which we are enabled to present its blazon. It represents on a field *gules* an heraldical tiger running *or*. At present we are unable to state to what chieftain it belonged." (Mr. Waller's paper referred to above).

"The ballad of 'Flodden Field,' the work of one who knew Lancashire and Cheshire well, names seventeen in Lord Derby's farewell to the chieftains whom he conjectures to have fallen there before their followers could have broken and fled in the manner described in the tidings first brought to the Royal camp." Among them is Sir William Molyneux. The ballad of "The Scottish Field," already cited, also mentions Sir William in its alliterative verses :—

> "With Sir William Molynex
> With a manfull meany." (*i.e.*, following).

For these services, like Sir Edward Stanley and many others, Sir William Molyneux was the recipient of a letter of thanks addressed to him by the king. Seacombe, in his "House of Stanley," says, "This most valiant and worthy gentleman appeared like the north star in its glory; he was a man of great command in Lancashire, the image of whose mind was as peculiar as the

elegant portrait of his body, nobly forgiving his enemies if reconcilable, and refusing ignobly to be revenged of them if obstinate. This noble mind, advanced by his heroic education, made him acceptable at court as well as in the country, where his hospitality was renowned, his equity and prudence beloved, and his interest large and commanding. In him was seen the idea of the true English gentleman; in favour at court, in repute in the country, at once loved and feared.

"His usual saying was 'That he never saw fear but in the backs of his enemies.' In a word, he lived in all capacities a public good, and died a common loss."

By his first wife, Jane, only daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Rugge of Shropshire, his children were Richard (afterwards knighted), an engraving of whose brass is given on another page; Anne, who married Alexander Standish, of Standish; and Jane, married to Richard Bold, of Bold.

By his second wife, Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of Cuthbert Clifton, Esq., he had Thomas; Anne, wife of Henry Halsall of Halsall; and Margaret. (See Foster's *Lancashire Pedigrees*, where, however, Elizabeth is named as

daughter of Cuthbert *Elison*, from a misreading of the epitaph).

The family of Molyneux, on leaving Sefton, settled at Croxteth, and its members successively acquired the titles of baronet, viscount, and earl; its present representative, William Philip Molyneux, bearing in his title of Earl of Sefton a reminiscence of the old home of his family. "Sefton Hall, existing in 1372, and then in its pristine grandeur, was a stately pile, surrounded by a circular moat still in existence, inclosing about a quarter of an acre of elevated ground, and stood opposite to the front of the church. The farm house which occupied the site of this ancient seat of the noble family of Molyneux was taken down at the beginning of the century, and all that now remains of this mansion are a few heaps of stones scattered from its strong and massive walls. About 70 years ago a Catholic chapel which adjoined the old hall was taken down (*Baines' Lancashire. Revised Ed., I., 395.)*

The beautiful old church of Sefton contains numerous other memorials of the Molyneux family. "On the East window, in painted glass, is an inscription in Latin 'Pray for the good estate of William Molineus, Knight, who caused this

(window) to be made, A.D. 1542,' with three shields of arms underneath." *(Baines)*. Shields with the cross moline adorn the porch, many of the pew ends, etc., and there are numerous tombs and monuments of the various members of this house interred in the church; notably, a finely carved recumbent effigy of stone, representing a crusader in chain-mail with knees crossed, and bearing upon his shield the cross moline.

A small engraving of the upper portion of Sir William Molyneux's effigy is given in Mr. Waller's article before referred to.

Sir Richard Molyneux, Knight, and his two Wives named Eleanor.

Sir Richard Molyneux, Knight, and his two Wives named Eleanor.

A.D. 1568.

Sefton, Lancashire.

THIS brass represents the son of Sir William Molyneux, the hero of Flodden, whose monument has been already noticed.

Like his father, Sir Richard married twice, and in his effigy, appears similarly placed between both his wives.

The figures in brass are inlaid upon the surface of an altar tomb in the chancel of Sefton Church adjoining, and on the south side of Sir William's monument.

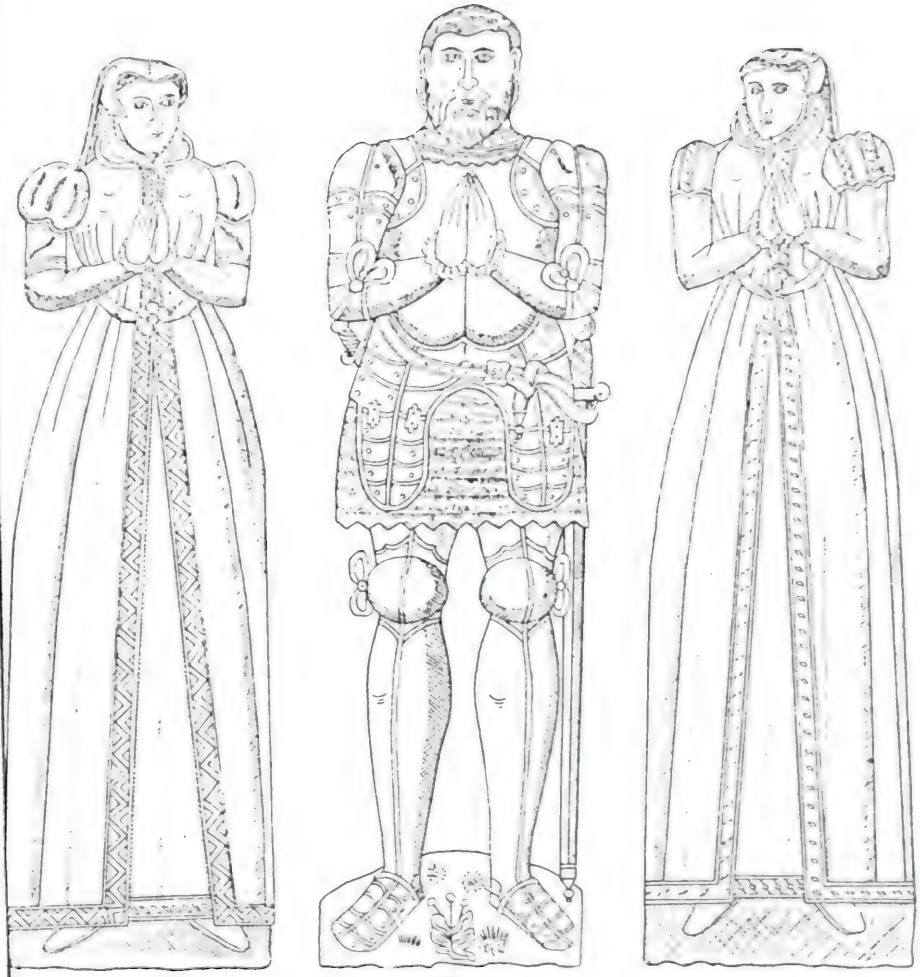
By his first wife (according to Baines) Sir Richard had five sons and eight daughters, and this would seem to be corroborated by the tomb, upon which, at the foot of the first wife, are the effigies in brass of eight girls and five boys. Foster, however, in his "Pedigrees of Lancashire Families," gives five sons and six daughters as the issue of Sir Richard's first wife. According

to Baines, the children of the second wife were five sons and one daughter. Foster gives three sons and one daughter. The portion of the brass representing these children has been lost, and therefore affords no clue.

The armour of Sir Richard is not materially different in style from that of his father. He is bare-headed, and wears beard and moustaches. A small ruff appears round his neck, and corresponding frills at his wrists. His hands are joined in prayer, and he is girt with sword and dagger.

Beneath his feet are flowers and plants growing.

The figure is small, and though neatly cut, the general design is not very good, being stiff, and rather clumsy, while the legs are disproportionately large. Both wives are simply dressed in long-skirted robes open in front, with sleeves puffed at the shoulder. They wear frills at the neck and wrists, and pedimental head-dresses of a late fashion, closely resembling the head-dress known as the "Paris-head." *(See Oxford Manual of Brasses, page cvii.)* Upon a brass plate below the figures are some quaint verses which at first sight might be supposed to relate to the twin



1568.

SIR RICHARD MOLYNEUX AND HIS WIVES.

Sefton Church, Lancashire.

help-mates who flank the good knight on either hand. Their meaning, however, on a closer perusal, is manifestly allegorical.

> "Dame Worshope was my guide in life
> and did my doings guide:
> Dame Wertue left me not alone
> when soule from bodye hyed.
>
> And thoughe that death with dinte of darte
> hath brought my corps on sleepe,
> The eternall God my eternall soule
> eternally doethe keepe."

Only a few fragments of the strip of brass which formerly encompassed the tomb are left, and these have been pieced together in wrong order, and read thus:—"—ghte & dame elenore his wyffe, bodyes of, S^r^ Richarde." In Baines' time some further portions of the inscription, though apparently not all, were in existence: he gives it thus:—"Sir Richard Molyneux, knight, and Dame Elenore his wyffe, whose soules God pdon."

Little is known of Sir Richard Molyneux, save that he gained his knighthood on the occasion of the coronation of Queen Mary, and served as Sheriff for Lancashire in 1566. He died in 1568.

He was an executor and legatee under the will of Anthony Molyneux, Rector of Sefton and

Walton, which is dated 13th October, 1553. It runs thus :—" . . . I desire S^r^ Ryc Molyneux, knyght, my M^r^ and patrone and my brother in lawe, Lawrence Ireland, squier, to be my executors, gevyng theym fulle auctoryte and power w^t^out scrouple of conscyence to adde to mynnyshe and chaunge any pt of this my wyll at there pleasure as they shall thinke most mette and convenyent" (truly a wide and weighty discretion!) "And ffor their paynes I beqwethe to ayther of (them) xl^s^, and to ye said M^r^ Molyneux the best garnysshe of pewt^r^ y^t^ I have . . ." *(Chetham Society's Publications, Vol. 51, Lancs. and Ches. Wills, page 263.)*

Sir Richard's first wife was Eleanor, daughter of Sir Alexander Radcliffe of Ordsall, and his second, Eleanor, daughter of Robert Maghull of Maghull, Esquire. By his first wife (according to Foster) he had William, his eldest son (who married Brigitta, wife of John Caroll, and daughter of John Lassell, Esquire), and who predeceased his father, dying in 1567. Richard, John, Anthony, and Alexander, Jane, Ellen, Alice, Maria, Ann, and Margaret.

His second wife (according to the same authority) bore him Thomas, Robert, Eleanor, and Anthony.

Hugh Starky, Esquire.

Hugh Starky, Esquire.

A.D. 1577.

Over, Cheshire.

THE brass of Hugh Starky of Oulton, in the Church of St. Chad at Over, near Winsford, in the County Palatine of Chester, is well preserved, and is a fine example of co-temporary monumental art.

The Cheshire esquire of the sixteenth century appears smoothly shaven, and wearing his hair long. The effigy is full-fronted, and the hands, which are without gloves, are joined in prayer.

He wears plate armour over a shirt of mail, portions of which are shown. The lower part of his mail shirt is divided in front. He wears *sabbatons* with spurs, and his knee and elbow plates are handsomely ornamented. He wears a dagger and a cross-hilted sword, the latter slung in a slanting position behind him. The high shoulder guards should be noticed. As we have seen, the head is bare, but rests upon a helmet richly adorned with mantling, and bearing his

crest, a stork's head erased, having a viper in its beak.

The feet rest upon a mound of earth, upon which are plants or flowers and grass. Beneath the figure is this inscription in old-English letters. "Off yor charite py for the soule of Hugh Starky of Olton, esquier, gentilman usher to Kyng Henry y^e^ VIII. & son to Hugh Starky of Olton esquier which Hugh y^e^ son decessyd the yere of o^r^ lord God mv^c^, ō hos soule Ihū haue m^r^cy."

There is also a shield charged with *storks*, the "canting" heraldic bearings of the Starky family.

This monument appears to have been engraved in the lifetime of the person it commemorates (a not infrequent practice), for the date has been only partially given—a blank space being left for the insertion of the year.

Hugh Starky's will was proved 8th June, 1577, but the style of the brass is of a much earlier date.

That Hugh Starky was a person of consequence appears from his epitaph just quoted. He came of old lineage, and his family still flourishes, though not upon the ancestral acres.

He was son and heir of Hugh Starky, of

1577.
HUGH STARKY, ESQUIRE.
Over, Cheshire.

Oulton, Esquire, by Margaret, daughter of Philip Egerton, of Egerton, Esquire. He rebuilt the church of Over in 1543. Hanshall, in his "History of Cheshire," mentions "another altar tomb in the front of the chancel steps, containing the ashes of Hugh Starky, the rebuilder of the church. The inscription, now obliterated, ran thus:—'Hic jacent corpora Hugonis Starky de Olton arm'i, & Margaretae uxoris ejus.' In the south aisle, in stained glass, are the figures of John Starkey of Oulton, and Agnes, his wife, the male figure is in plate armour."

Hugh Starky married Margaret, daughter and heiress of — Swanwick of Wirswall, by whom he had no issue. He had, however, an illegitimate son, Oliver Starky, a Knight of Malta, and subsequently Grand Master of the Order.

Hugh Starky's will, dated 5th August, 1560, is an interesting document, and shows that the wealthy Cheshire squire did not forget his numerous servants and dependants when he was settling his affairs with a view to leaving the world. "I will," reads the testament, "y^{t} iff (it) shall ffortune me to dye wth in the countie of Chest^{r} that then my bodye shall be buried in ye chansell of Ov^{r} in my tombe there. I bequeathe

to Margarie my wyffe xl^tie marks of my lands of the inheritance of my ffather as is appoynted unto her by writinge and the third pte of all my goods and ye litle fouldon borde y^t standeth in ye plore." He makes provision for his sisters, and for numerous servants:—"To Hugh Wettenhall xx^s yearly duringe ye lyf of his ffather so y^t he be not retayned unto any man's service nor weare any mane's liv^raye duringe ye same tyme. To Jane Wadnett xl^s to her mariage. All my apprell of my bodie to ye said Hughe Wettenhall and to John Leche. To Ellen Ecton iij li towards y^e exsebycon of her poore children. . . . I bequethe lxxx^li to make a substanciall horse waye paved betwixt Darley and the Nampte wich and to defend it w^t carts. Unto my cosyn Thomas Starnynge my best horse or geldynge at his aleccon and v marks. To Willm Greene my s^rvante my best wayne, one plowe, one cowe, and one harrowe. To ev^ry one of my servānts bothe men and women w^ch shalbe dwelling w^t me at y^e daye of my deceasse a whole yeare's wages apeese. . . . To John Brickinden, nowe pson of Grace churche in London my newe clothe gowene furred w^t marterons (martens). . . . My said wyffe shall have ij ffether beds and ij

matrases, compleate, one sylv^{r} salte, and one sylv^{r} cuppe psell gylte wherein she useth to drinke ale, vj kyne and vj sylv^{r} spones in full satisfaccon of all her pte of my goods &c.

"(Part of the residue) I will y^{t} my executors shall imploy towards ye p^{r}ferments of mariage of poore mayds, releve and succore of poore infants and fatherles children and other poore neadie people, repayring and mendyng highe wayes and decayed bridges, and suche other lyke and charitable good deades as my said executors and ye surviv^{r}s of them shall thinke most charitable and godlye to be done. I ordayne my right trustie and lovinge cosens Richard Wylbrã Esquyer, John Brewne of Stapleford, Esquyer" (a name long remembered in Cheshire as typifying the highest form of puritan life and "the primitive piety,") "Richard Starkye of Stretton Esquyer, and John Leche gentelman my execetors, and for their paynes I gyve &^{c} to ev^{r}y one ye sum of v^{li}. and I make S^{r} John Savage, Knyghte, Supvisor."

This will was proved 8th June, 1577. (*Chetham Soc. Publications, Vol. 51, p. 192).*

Of this house was Ralph Starky, known for his collection of Cheshire pedigrees, and as author of

a poem called "Infortunio," of some merit; he lived in James I.'s reign. The Starkies of Huntroyde, co. Lancaster, are descendants of Hugh Starky.

Darley Hall, the ancient moated dwelling of the family, has been taken down. Leland, in his "Itinerary," says, "Starkies is at Dorle, a v miles from Northwich, a scant mile from Oldeton, and 3 miles from Vale Royal."

Thomas Beri.

Thomas Beri.

A.D. 1586.

Walton-on-the-Hill, Lancashire.

THE brass of Thomas Beri, or Berry, consists of a quadrangular plate bearing the effigy or figure at the left side, with the date, while the remaining space is filled with a quaint rhyming inscription commemorative of the deceased and of a charity founded by him.

This brass was formerly in the parish church of Walton-on-the-Hill, near Liverpool, but is now kept in the vestry.

The figure of Thomas Beri shows an elderly man with beard and moustache, wearing a ruff about his neck, and frills at his wrists. His hands are joined in prayer, and he is turned towards the inscription.

He wears a tunic with a sash or belt tied in a bow in front. Over this he wears a heavy cloak, an article of dress common in Elizabeth's reign. It has a broad fur collar and facings, and false or hanging sleeves.

Although open at the top, it is closed lower

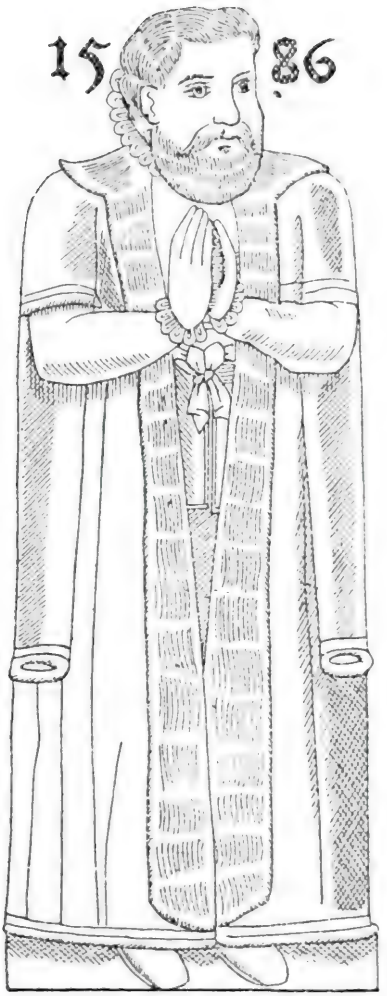
down, so as to hide the wearer's legs. The date 1586 is engraved above the figure, the numbers 15 being on the left, and 86 on the right of his head. There is also, adjoining the figure, a device which appears to be a merchant's mark, consisting of the initials T. B. with the figures 42. The meaning of these numbers is not apparent.

The inscription reads as follows :—

"In God the lord put all your truste,
Repente your former wicked waies
Elizabethe our quene moste juste
Blesse her o lorde in all her daies
So lord encrease good councelers
And preachers of his holie worde
Mislike off all papistes desiers
O lord cut them off with sworde.
How small soever the gifte shallbe
Thanke God for him who gave it thee
xii penie loaves to xii poore foulkes
Geve everie sabothe day for aye."

The initial letters of these lines, read backwards, spell the name Thomas Beri.

It is believed that Thomas Beri was a native of Walton, and he is said to have been baptised in the parish church there. He afterwards went to London, and prospered there, becoming a citizen and fishmonger, and, it is thought, a member of the Common Council. He left money for a



1586.

THOMAS BERI.

Walton-on-the-Hill Church, Lancashire.

remembrance of himself to be made in brass, and placed in the parish church of Walton. His last will was proved Jan. 15, 1608.

His religious views are indicated with considerable force in the epitaph already quoted.

In the church of S. Mary Magdalen, Fish Street Hill, London, is (or rather was) a duplicate of this brass, the only difference consisting in some of the letters being differently shaped, and some of the words differently spelt.

S. Mary Magdalen's was one of the city churches which was burnt in the Great Fire, and was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren. *(Maitland's "History of London;" Timbs' "Curiosities of London.")*

The London counterpart of the brass is kept at the clerk's house, and is to be set up shortly in St. Martin's, Ludgate. It is probable that these brasses were executed, and perhaps set up, before Beri's death, notwithstanding the above tradition of his having left money for his posthumous commemoration.

In Maitland's "London," among the annual donations attached to S. Mary Magdalen's church, occurs the following:—"1601. By Thomas Berrey, £28," which looks as if he were living as

late as 1601, and the date of proof of his will seems to place this beyond doubt.

He seems at the same time to have established a charity in his native village, for among the charities attached to Walton Church, as given in Baines' "Lancashire," occurs the following:—"Walton and Bootle, 1601. Berry's charity Rent charge of 54s. for bread. The property (in London) having increased in value, yields per annum £4. 10s."

Thomas Beri was cousin to Robert Berie, alderman of Liverpool, a brother to Richard Berie of Bootle.

Mr. F. Musker, of Walton, who has kindly searched the books of Walton Parish Church, reports that "there is not a single entry concerning him in either the registers or the churchwarden's vestry-book."

The practice of putting up brasses to the same person in different churches was by no means uncommon, and in some cases even two brasses to the same person are found in the same church. *(Oxford Manual of Brasses, pp. xvii. to xix.).*

Myles Dodding, Esquire, and Margaret,
his Wife.

Myles Dodding, Esquire, and Margaret, his Wife.

A.D. 1606.

Ulverston, Lancashire.

THE brass engraved upon page 253 is a very good specimen of the Elizabethan and Jacobean period. It is in good preservation; the figures are boldly and firmly drawn, and the lines clearly cut. It belongs to that stage when the idea of a recumbent effigy had given place to that of an upright figure, intended very often, as in the present instance, to occupy a position upon the wall, and not upon the floor of the church.

The brass of Myles Dodding belongs to that transpontine portion of Lancashire which embraces the fell country of Furness, and which geographically seems more properly to belong, as in early times it did politically, to the adjacent county of Westmorland.

It forms part of a marble monument upon the south wall of the Braddyll Chapel, at the east end of the southern aisle of St. Mary's Parish Church at Ulverston.

Myles Dodding wears his peaked beard and ruff, his doublet, puffed breeches, and trunk-hose, and over all, his fur-trimmed cloak with hanging sleeves, with all the grace of a well-born, well-favoured man, whose natural parts are well qualified to set off the handsome dress of the day. His wife, too, with her coif, ruff, embroidered bodice, and capacious skirts, makes far from an ungraceful figure; and the pair are well worthy of the skill which the artist has bestowed upon them.

What strikes one as most unusual is the pedestal or rounded base upon which they stand; oddly enough recalling the scriptural and amphibious personages so dear and familiar to us in our nursery days.

Beneath the figures is the following inscription, engraved in capital letters:—"Here before lyeth buried the bodies of Myles Dodding Esq: & Margaret his wife, who died in the yeare of o^r^ Lord 1606, after they had lived maried 43 yeares and had issue tenne children, of whom there only survived them Myles Dodding & Henrye."

Miles Dodding was the owner of the old dissolved Priory of Conishead, or rather of a half of it, for having married a co-heiress, he acquired,

1606.

MYLES DODDING, ESQUIRE, AND HIS WIFE.

Ulverston, Lancashire.

jure uxoris, a moiety of the estate, a consequence of our laws of inheritance of which we have already noticed an instance in the case of Sir Robert del Bothe and his Cheshire property. The manor and site of Conishead Priory had been purchased in the second year of King Edward VI., by William Sandys of Colton Hall in Furness, but resident after his purchase at the Priory. By his first wife, Mabel, he had two daughters, Margaret and Barbara. By his second wife, Agnes, he had a son and heir, Francis Sandys.

By his will he devised his estates to his son, with remainder to his daughters. He died in 1558.

Francis dying in 1583 without issue, the Conishead estate passed to his half-sisters as co-parceners.

Margaret was married to Myles Dodding, son and heir of William Dodding of Kendal, but resident in London. Barbara was married to Myles Philipson of Crook, in Westmorland.

Myles and Barbara Philipson were the first to take up their abode at Conishead Priory. Of their two sons, Christopher and Robert, the former inherited his mother's moiety of Conishead, and made it his home. He married Bridget, daughter

of George Kirby, and died in 1600, leaving an infant heir named Myles. His widow married again, and went to reside at Heversham. Myles Dodding and his wife having left London, now came to Conishead Priory, and here the remainder of their lives was spent. The brief record upon their monument which tells how, of their family of ten, two children alone survived them, is only another testimony to the well-known fact that until comparatively recent times it was common for at least half a family to die in infancy. The Ulverston Parish Registers record the burial of Margaret Dodding on the 24th December, 1606; and that of Myles, her husband, a month later, on the 27th January 1606-7.

Their son, Myles Dodding, lived at Conishead Priory, and married Ursula, daughter of Christopher Deyville, by whom he had a son, George, and two daughters.

He died in 1629, and is commemorated in Ulverston Church by a mural monument, consisting of a recumbent effigy in armour beneath a marble canopy, and bearing a Latin inscription.

His son, George Dodding, purchased for £1200 the interest of the Philipsons in the site and manor of Conishead Priory. He married

Sarah, daughter of Rowland Backhouse, and had by her a son named Myles, and five daughters. He was a Colonel in the army of the Parliament, and took an active part in the civil war. He was among those captured by the Earl of Derby while inspecting the Spanish ship which had gone ashore in the Wyre. He died in 1650, his widow surviving him twenty-nine years.

Myles Dodding, the third of that name, had several children, but all died without issue except a daughter, Sarah, whose marriage with John Braddyll of Portfield, transferred Conishead Priory and the adjacent estates to the Braddyll family.

For the above facts, as also for the loan of a rubbing of the brass, the writer is indebted to the courtesy of the Rev. L. R. Ayre, Vicar of Ulverston.

Richard Assheton, Esquire, and Mary,
his Wife.

Richard Assheton, Esquire, and Mary, his Wife.

A.D. 1618.

Middleton, Lancashire.

UPON a flat slab at the north side of the chancel of St. Leonard's Church, Middleton, at the foot of the altar, are the figures in brass of Richard Assheton, Esquire, and his wife Mary. He is attired in Elizabethan or Jacobean style, and wears peaked beard and moustaches. His appearance is that of a man in the prime of life, and accords with the statement in his epitaph that he died in his forty-first year. Round his neck he wears a capacious ruff. He has a belted tunic, knee-breeches, and shoes, and over all a heavy cloak with hanging sleeves, very similar to those seen in the brasses of Thomas Beri and Thomas Covell. His left hand rests upon his breast, while his right holds a grim memento of man's mortality, in the shape of a skull. Perhaps this typifies his early death. He holds it in a manner suggestive of one about to

play at bowls. His wife Mary wears a high-crowned and wide-brimmed hat, and a large ruff. She wears a plain skirt and loose bodice tied at the waist, and over these a long cloak without sleeves. Her hands are joined in prayer.

Beneath these figures is this inscription, in capital letters :—

"Hic Iacet Richardus Assheton Armiger, Dominus de Middleton, pietatis prudentiae et eruditionis nomine clarus cui uxur Maria filia Thoma Venables Baronis de Kinderton nati sex Richardus, Rodolphus, Ioannes, Jacobus, Guilielmus, Thomas, duaq filiae Dorithea & Maria. Obiit 7 Novemb. Anni 1618 Ætatis suae 41 currente." ("Here lies Richard Assheton, Esquire, Lord of Middleton, distinguished for his piety, prudence, and learning, whose wife was Mary, daughter of Thomas Venables, Baron of Kinderton, and whose sons were six, Richard, Ralph, John, James, William, Thomas, and daughters two, Dorithea and Mary. He died 7th November, in the year 1618, in his 41st year.")

Below Richard Assheton's figure, on a square brass plate, are the effigies of five sons, wearing cloaks, knee-breeches, and wide collars, and a

1618.

RICHARD ASSHETON, ESQUIRE, AND HIS WIFE.

Middleton, Lancashire.

child in swaddling-clothes. Beneath the wife's figure, on a similar plate, are seen the two daughters, in farthingales and ruffs. Near the head of the slab are two shields, that on the dexter side bearing the arms of Assheton of Middleton.

Richard Assheton was eldest son and heir to Sir Richard Assheton, who was several times Sheriff of Lancashire, who married Mary, daughter of Sir John Byron, of Clayton, and who was knighted at the coronation of James I., and died only a year before his son. During his father's lifetime Richard lived at Mostyn Hall, near Manchester, and Blackley Hall, near Middleton. His wife Mary is described as "a lady of exemplary piety and of great domestic virtue." Her effigy, as a child, is given in the brass to her mother, Elizabeth Venables—a small quadrangular mural plate in the church at Middlewich, Cheshire.

In the most interesting "Journal" of Nicholas Assheton of Downham, written in 1617 and 1618, and which in parts strongly reminds us of the immortal Diary of Pepys, mention is made of both father and son. Under date of 1617, Dec. 26, we read, "Word came that Sir Ric. Assheton was

verie dangerously sicke. Dec. 27, St. John's Day. I with my Cooz. Assheton to Middleton. Sir Ric. had left his speche and did not knowe a man. . . . He depted verie calmly abt eight at night. No extraordinary sorrow, 'cause his death was soe apparent in his sickness."

His son Richard (whose brass is before us) seems to have shown somewhat undue haste to assume his inheritance, for we read on the same day, "Presently upon his death ther was enquiring after his Will, which was shewed by Mr. John Greenhalgh of Brandlesome and Sir Rics second son Ralph Assheton who with my lady were Exors, and Cooz. Assheton of Whalley Supervisor. My now Cooz. Assheton of Middleton, Ric., began to demand the keyes of the gates and of the studie for the evidence, and to call for the plate, uppon cause his brother John had some part in them. Ther were some likeness of present falling out of him and the exors, which certainly had bene, had not my Cooz. Assheton of Whalley soe . . . as was litel or noe discord. The reason was former unkindness between Sir Ric. and his sonn, to which Sir Ric. was moved by my lady and thos that were of her faccon : but nowe all well, praysed be God, which I praye

God to continue. . . . Dec 29. Exors, Heir, and my Cooz. Assheton in the studie all daye and ther well all things sett straight."

In the following year the Journalist had to record the death of the new lord of Middleton.

"1618 Nov. 7. This day my Cooz. Assheton of Middleton dyed." Richard Assheton's will was dated in June of the same year.

Seth Bushell.

Seth Bushell.

A.D. 1623.

Preston, Lancashire.

IT is not to every brass-collector that the effigy of Seth Bushell, figured upon page 273, will appeal.

Those to whom the beauty and artistic merit of the mediæval brass is its predominant charm, will pass hastily by, or even, it may be, turn aside with something akin to disgust, from the rude similacrum, or rather travesty—as it seems to them—of honest Seth Bushell, citizen, in days gone by, of Preston town.

Such was certainly our first impulse. So grotesquely rough and uncouth did this graven slab of brass appear,—suggestive almost of the rock drawings of a Bushman, or the luxuriant fancies of Edwin Lear,—so totally devoid of all those elements into which Burke has resolved the essence of beauty: venerable, it is true, to the extent of some two-and-a-half centuries, yet not old enough for its rudeness to be the sign and

outcome of its time,—a perplexing anachronism, with no good quality to redeem it.

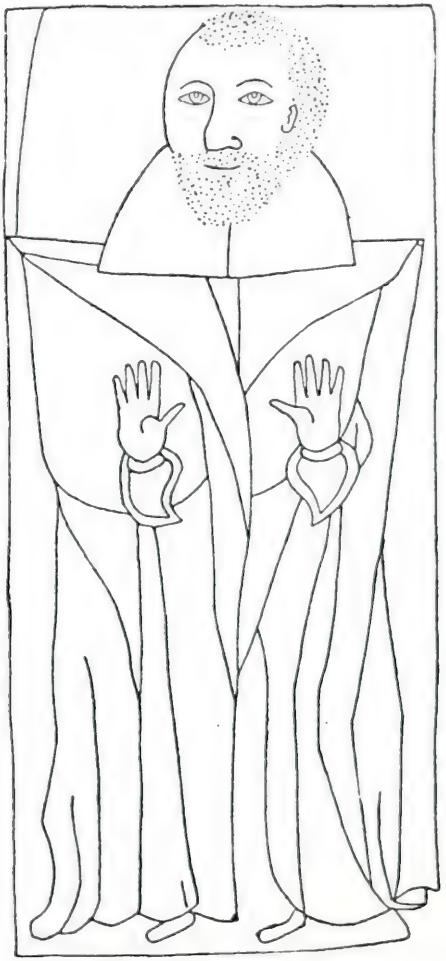
So we said in our haste. But quiet reflection, fortified largely, it must be admitted, by the gentle protests and reasoning of friends, altered this frame of mind: with the result that the Bushell brass was re-examined, pondered upon, and invested with strange attractions, never seen till then.

Where all is unknown, each may theorise for himself. To us it has seemed that this effigy is a tribute, honest and genuine, to a good man; wrought by hands which had perhaps gripped his; and inspired—not by genius—but (some will say, by a better thing), by love.

But in this book, theory is not our province.

To the least critical it must be plain that the brass is the work of a "'prentice-hand."

Shoulders, the worthy "bayliff and brother of Preston," has none. We have to be content with a sort of horizon of shirt-collar and gown-flap. He wears moustache and beard. Expression we may not look for: it suffices that the usual features are duly denoted. He wears what may be a civic gown, of a cut common in the days of Elizabeth and King James, possibly trimmed with fur.



1623.
SETH BUSHELL.
Preston, Lancashire.

His hands, which seem to sprout through their sleeves from the region of his waist, are held upright, with open palms and extended fingers. His feet are scarcely worth mentioning. The whole figure is wrought upon an oblong quadrangular plate of brass, very rough, and somewhat mutilated.

Perhaps the most interesting part of Seth Bushell's monument is a second quadrangular plate, upon which is the following inscription in Roman letters,—a simple memorial, but one by the light of which the figure of the dead man should be contemplated.

"Here lyeth interd Seath Bushell, Woollen Draper, Baylife and a Brother of Preston, dying the XV of Sep^r^ 1623, aged 53. Gave unto his kinesfoolkes and godchildren in legacies VI C £: also XX £ to the Poore of this Towne for ever, the use to be given the said Poore by the Maior or his Deputie at Christ^s^ & Easter: 4 £ to the Poore of Leeland & Walton: al out of his charitable minde."

Seth would seem to have been a family name, for among the vicars of Preston, shortly before 1677, we meet with a Seth Bushell, D.D., and in 1682 a Seth Bushell was also vicar of Lancaster.

(Baines' "Lancashire," Revised Ed., Vol. II., pp. 57 and 456.)

Up to the year 1854 these brasses were in the Parish Church at Preston, but during its restoration they were stolen, and sold for about 8½d. each. They are now in the possession of Mr. T. Harrison Myres, whose intention it is to restore them to their original position.

The accompanying illustration is from a rubbing kindly made for the writer by Mr. Myres.

A good engraving of the brass, from a drawing by Mr. Myres, may be seen in Mr. Tom C. Smith's "Records of the Parish Church at Preston," and a copy from it accompanies a review of that work in "The Antiquary" for June, 1892 (p. 249).

Thomas Covell, Esquire.

Thomas Covell, Esquire.

A.D. 1639.

St. Mary's Church, Lancaster.

THE portion of this brass which contains the figure of the departed has become loose from the stone, but it is hoped that it may ere long be restored to its proper position. The epitaph, however, upon another brass plate, still remains in the middle of the nave of the old parish church of St. Mary, at Lancaster.

The figure of Thomas Covell, Esquire, has been broken across the middle, and a good deal worn by passing feet, insomuch that the features, except the eyes, have become obliterated. For the sake of preserving the general effect, they have been restored in the accompanying engraving. The remains of a peaked beard are still visible, and from these premises it required little originality to sketch in the moustache and lineaments.

Thomas Covell wears a wide ruff, a closely buttoned tunic, breeches, and jack boots reach-

ing to the knee. Over all is a large and heavy fur-edged cloak, with high puffed shoulders, and long false sleeves. His hands are joined in prayer, and he is represented as standing upon a pavement of chequered flags or tiles. The inscription beneath the effigy is as follows :—

"Here lyeth interred y^e^ body of Thomas Covell Esq. 6 tymes Maior of this Towne, 48 yeares keeper of this Castle, 46 yeares one of y^e^ coroners of y^e^ County Palatine of Lancaster, Captaine of y^e^ Freehold Band of this Hundred of Loinsdall on this side of y^e^ Sands, & Justice of Peace & Quorū throughout this said County Palatine of Lancaster, who dyed y^e^ 1 of August, 1639, *aetatis suae*, 78.

"Cease, cease to mourne, all teares are vaine and voide :
Hee's fledd, not dead ; dissolved, not destroy'd.
In Heaven his soule doth rest, his bodie heere
Sleepes in this dust, and his fame everie where
Triumphs ; the towne, the country farther forth,
The land throughout proclaimes his noble worth.
Speake of a man soe kinde, soe courteous,
So free and every waie magnanimous,
That storie told at large heere doe you see,
Epitomiz'd in briefe : Covell was hee."

A very notable person this Covell appears to have been. "Clothed in a little brief authority," as Mayor, Custodian of Lancaster Castle, etc.,

he naturally must have made some figure in his time in the chief town of the County Palatine; but from what we can learn of the personality of the man, there must also have been much of sterling worth and honest geniality in his character, which went some way towards justifying the encomiastic epitaph just quoted.

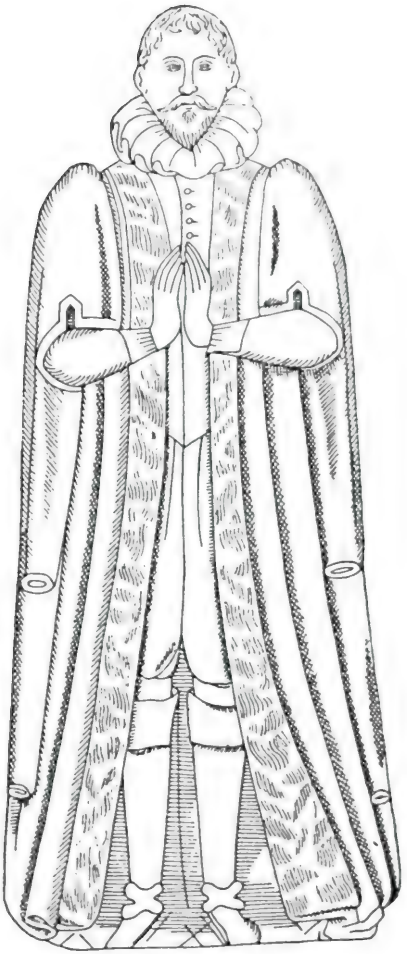
In a very interesting paper, entitled "A Lancaster Worthy," contributed by Mr. William Hewitson to "Bygone Lancashire" *(edited by Ernest Axon. William Andrews and Co., Hull, 1892)*, a sketch of Covell's biography is presented, from which most of the following particulars have been taken.

It would seem that when Covell was Governor of Lancaster Castle, his brother kept the "George Inn" hard by. Partly owing, perhaps, to this circumstance, he seems to have exercised a very generous hospitality towards the strangers —and they were many—who visited Lancaster from time to time. We find repeated testimony of this. John Taylor, the "Water Poet" of James I.'s reign, in his "Pennyless Pilgrimage" from London to Edinburgh, tasted of Thomas Covell's good cheer while sojourning at Lancaster.

He facetiously speaks of Covell, to whose good offices he was consigned by his friend, the Under-Sheriff of Lancashire, as the "Iaylor."

"The Iaylor kept an Inne, good beds, good cheere,
Where paying nothing, I found nothing deere:
For the under Shriefe, kind Master Couill nam'd
(A man for house-keeping renown'd and fam'd),
Did cause the Towne of Lancaster afford
Me welcome as if I had beene a Lord.
And 'tis reported that for daily bounty
His mate can scarce be found in all that county.
Th' extremes of mizer, or of prodigall,
He shuns, and liues discreet and liberall;
His wiue's minde and his owne are one, so fixt
That Argus' eyes could see no oddes betwixt,
And sure, the difference (if there difference be)
Is who shall doe most good, or he or shee.
Poor folks report that for relieuing them
He and his wife are each of them a Jem;
At th' Inne and at his house two nights I staide,
And what was to be paid, I know he paide;
If nothing of their kindnesse I had wrote,
Ingratefull me the world might justly note:
Had I declar'd all I did heare or see,
For a great flatt'rer then I deem'd should be:
Him and his wife, and modest daughter Besse,
With Earth and Heau'n's felicity, God blesse.
Two dayes a man of his, at his command,
Did guide me to the midst of Westmerland,
And my Conductor, with a liberall fist,
To keepe me moist, scarce any alehouse mist."

We have in these lines the warm gratitude of a



1639.
THOMAS COVELL.
St. Mary's Church, Lancaster.

wayfarer to one who had taken him in, and treated him well when a stranger in a strange land.

Richard Brathwaite, author of "Barnaby's Journal," sounds the same note :—

> "For a Jaylor ripe and mellow,
> The world hath not such a fellow."

In 1634, three officers sojourning at the "George," state that "our host was the better acquainted with the affayres of the shire, for that his brother was both a justice of the peace and a chiefe gaoler there, by vertue whereof wee had some commaund of the Castle, w'ch is the honr and grace of the whole towne."

The "gaoler" incurred the displeasure of the Bishop of Chester for too great leniency towards his prisoners: the prelate mentions a report that "the recusants there have liberty to go when and whither they list; to hunt, hawk, and go to horse races at their leisure; which notorious abuse of law and justice should speedily be reformed." We can scarcely love the gaoler the less for this tenderness towards the "recusants."

Burton, the Puritan, however, had no such complaint to offer. During his short imprisonment at Lancaster, whither he had come with his

ears cropped like his fellow-sufferers, Prynne and Bastwick, he found his janitor a "beastly man," and seems to have had more than one passage of arms with him.

The sour, if sincere and courageous, piety of the Puritan did not accord with the temperament of the "jaylor ripe and mellow." On Burton's arrival, the Governor, "sitting in John of Gaunt's old chaire, fell to speak his pleasure of me, and to censure me for what I had done: to whom I said, 'Sir, it is your office to be my gaoler, not my judge?'"

Covell's reply, if he had one ready—and we can hardly doubt it—is not recorded.

Some interesting references to Thomas Covell are to be found in the ffarington Papers *(Chet. Soc. Pub., Vol. 39, 1856).*

These contain a copy of an agreement, dated 4th March, 1635, made between Covell and William ffarington, Esq., Sheriff of Lancashire, under which the former was "upon his own cost and chardge to p'vyde dyett, lodgeinge, and horse-meate for the Judges, their followers and seruants at the next Assyses," and also to make similar provision for the Sheriff and his following. The Sheriff seems to have had rather an uncom-

fortable time with the Justices of Assize, who, on one pretext or another, mulcted him in some heavy fines. For his greater security, the Sheriff thought fit to enter into a bond with the keeper of the Castle, whereby the latter indemnified him from liability in case of escapes of prisoners, etc. The condition of the bond provides, among other things, "that the said Thomas Covell his Deputye or Assignee shall not unlawfullie discharge or set at libtie any prysoner or prysoners taken, delivered, committed, or lefte in the custodie of the said Thomas Covell without the speciall warrante in writinge under the hand and seale of the officer of the said Sheriffe in y^{t} behalfe first hadd and obtained."

A curious specimen of "Counsel's Opinion" is contained in a letter, dated Knowsley, 7th August, 1637, from Edward Holte, whom the Sheriff had consulted upon the framing of this condition, and who seems to have thought that, *ex abundante cautelâ*, the clause should have been drafted in wider and more general terms.

Mr. Hewitson gives some particulars of the numerous executions which took place during Covell's term of office. The dismal list includes the execution of thirty-one persons "as the

outcome of three assizes alone!" A great number of the unhappy "Lancashire Witches" were confined in the Castle, and ultimately met their cruel fate during this period.

Covell's daughter, "Besse," married John Brockholes, of Heaton and Claughton. "The two children born of this marriage died in 1654 (about twelve years after their father), and were buried at Garstang Parish Church." The wife, who, as Taylor relates, had such a gentle emulation in good doing with her husband, survived him by one year only.

"Covell's inventory amounted to £3,047 7s. 3d."

Mr. Hewitson's article is illustrated by a small engraving of Covell's brass, which, however, represents the lines of the effigy as even more effaced than, on a close inspection, we think they will be found to be.

Ralph Assheton, Esquire, and Elizabeth,
his Wife.

Ralph Assheton, Esquire, and Elizabeth, his Wife.

A.D. 1650.

Middleton, Lancashire.

LIKE the other brasses in this church, Ralph Assheton's lies in the chancel, before the altar.

The figure of the husband, upon a square plate of brass is on the (spectator's) right hand of the stone slab, and that of his wife upon the left—a departure from the almost invariable rule.

As commander of the Parliamentary forces in Lancashire, Ralph Assheton holds in his right hand a field-marshal's baton; his left rests upon his hip; his right foot is slightly advanced, and he stands in a dignified and commanding posture, with his head erect, and turned somewhat toward his right hand. This is a most interesting brass, not only on account of the celebrity of the person whom it represents, but also for its intrinsic merits.

Considering its late date, it is remarkably bold

and spirited in design, and is besides well and neatly cut. The Major-General is represented as a somewhat broad and full-faced man; his hair is moderately short—a compromise between the crop-eared cut of the typical Puritan, and the unlovely love-locks of the Cavalier. The small moustachios, brushed upward, and the imperial beard are characteristic of the time. Round his throat, appearing above his armour, is a plain linen collar tied with a small tassel or bow. He is completely cased in plate armour. The *tuilettes*, or leg-guards, the development of which we noticed in the brass of Sir William Molyneux, have become longer still, and reach from the hips to below the knee, till they are hidden by the wide-topped boots (upon which are spurs). A scarf is tied round his left arm, above the elbow, and hangs in graceful folds. His sword hangs by a narrow sword-belt on his left side. His hands are bare. He stands upon a mound beneath an arch supported by pillars.

Dame Margaret, who stands beneath a similar arch, wears a cap, and a long veil or hood, which descends to the ground, and a dress with a stiff and pointed bodice.

Her right hand is raised, and her left holds up

her cloak. A small portion at the right lower corner of this brass has been broken off.

Beneath these two figures is the following inscription in capital letters :—

"Memoriae Sacrum Radulphi Assheton, Armigeri, Domini de Middleton, pii in Deum, Patriam, et suos, copiarum omnium in agro Lancastriensi (Supremi Senatus auctoritate) conscriptarum) praefecti fortis et fidelis, qui cum e conjuge sua Elizabetha (filia Johannis Kaye de Woodsome in agro Eboracensi armigeri) suscepisset filios tres, Ricardum, Radulphum, Johannem, totidemque filias, Elizabetham, Mariam, Annam, obdormivit in Jesu 17° Febr 1650 aetatis suae, 45 currente."

("Sacred to the memory of Ralph Assheton, Esquire, Lord of Middleton, pious toward God, his country, and his family, a brave and faithful commander of all the forces in the County of Lancaster (levied by the authority of the Parliament) who, having with his wife Elizabeth (daughter of John Kaye, Esquire, of Woodsome, in the county of York) had three sons, Richard, Ralph, and John, and the same number of daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Anne, fell asleep in Jesus, 17th February, 1650 in his 45th year.")

At the foot of the slab are two small

quadrangular plates of brass, that under the husband containing the figures of the three sons above mentioned; the eldest is in full armour resembling his father's, the second wears a long cloak, the third is an infant in swaddling-clothes. The other represents the daughters, the two elder wearing the simple, graceful dress of that period; the elder daughter has a fan of feathers. The third daughter is an infant in swaddling-bands.

Above the figures of Ralph Assheton and his wife are two shields.

In Ralph Assheton of Middleton, we have one of Lancashire's most prominent historic characters, a man who took the part of leader in the Parliamentary interest in that county.

One of the most substantial of the landed proprietors, belonging to one of the most ancient and honourable families in the shire, his adherence was welcomed by the Parliament; and his zealous conduct and active and successful career during the civil wars showed that his worth had not been overrated. As Major-General of the Lancashire forces, he plays no unimportant part in the history of his time, and is frequently alluded to in the current news-letters and in the despatches of Cromwell and others. He was son and heir to

Richard Assheton, Esq., by his wife, Mary, daughter of Thomas Venables, Baron of Kinderton in Cheshire (whose brasses have been already described), and was born about 1605. In addition to his representation on his own monument, he also figures, in a quaint cloak and ruff, as one of the sons of Richard Assheton, on the small plate at the foot of the latter's tomb.

While yet a minor, in the year 1623, he married Elizabeth, only daughter of John Kaye, of Woodsome, in the county of York, Esquire.

The venerable Rector of Middleton, the Rev. Abdias Assheton, dying in 1633, left him the following legacy:—"I give to my cosin and Patron, Raphe Assheton of Middleton, Esq., my best jewell, my watch, or pockett clocke, given unto me by most honourable Lorde my Lorde of Essex, the morning before his death." The Earl of Essex was executed for treason 25th February, 1600, and Mr. Assheton had probably been his chaplain.

Ralph Assheton studied for some time at the Bar,—whether with the fixed purpose of making it his profession, or merely as being the valuable and necessary adjunct to the character of landed gentleman, so warmly insisted upon by Blackstone in a

later age, we do not know. He was made a Bencher of Gray's Inn on the 13th August 1639. He sat as Member for Lancashire in the Parliament which met on 3rd November, 1640, and was among the number of those appointed deputy-lieutenants for the county by the Parliament, two years later, in opposition to the nominees of the Crown. Seacombe (who, needless to say, viewed things from a Royalist stand-point) says that he was one of those who took the bait of proffered dignity and command thrown out by the Parliament at the commencement of the war. His energy and promptitude quickly showed themselves, and by his means a quantity of powder and match, stored in Manchester by Lord Strange (afterwards Earl of Derby) was seized and secured for the Parliament. In conjunction with John Moore and Alexander Rigby, two of his most constant auxiliaries, he signed, at the commencement of the war, a letter addressed "To the honourable William Lenthall, Esquire, Speaker of the House of Commons," giving a report of the position and proceedings of the factions at Manchester. At the brave defence of that town against the king's troops, Assheton's Middleton tenants made themselves conspicuous

by their gallantry, and when some of the townsfolk were for a surrender, they stoutly refused, "by a general shout declaring that they would part with their arms and their lives together." *(Chet. Soc. Pub., Lancashire Civil War Tracts, 1844, page 333.)*

In October, 1642, he was put upon the Commission of the Peace for Lancashire. In the Journals of the House of Commons, vol. ii., p. 833, we find it "Ordered that Ralph Ashton Esquire shall have Mr. Speaker's warrant for the conveying down four small brass pieces to Manchester, without lett or interruption, and likewise one small brass piece for the safetie of his own house."

All through the war, hither and thither he marched, beating up recruits and enlisting levies, skirmishing, pursuing, retreating, taking towns and castles, or being besieged in them, ever moving, and almost ubiquitous, the Lancashire squire made his name both loved and feared throughout the county.

He was in command during the first siege of Bolton by King Charles's forces, and it was he who, a little later, relieved the town of Lancaster.

In 1643, on the 1st of April, he was appointed

one of the Committee of Sequestrators for Lancashire. The duties of a Sequestrator demanded a stern disregard of all ties of friendship or kindred. A letter from Ralph Assheton to his relative, Mrs. Margaret ffarington, whose husband was a "delinquent," illustrates this in strong colours. It is given among the ffarington Papers *(Chet. Soc. Pub., Vol. 39)*, and is as follows :—

"Cosen,

Itt is true y^{t} I heare that the goodes in y^{r} husband's howse and demayne are allotted towards the satisfaction of my souldiers, but if you please yo^{u} may buy them in at an easie rate as I suppose, and for which there is direction given. Yett if yo^{u} bee wilfull and will not buy them, the souldiers willbee constrayned to take them awaye, w^{ch} neyther I nor they desyre to doe, if soe be it could bee other wayes contriued. Y^{r} owne wilfulnes maye doe you harme, and then blame y^{r} selves, not us. The heyre loomes yo^{u} mention I did see a note of, and acquainted y^{e} other Deputy Lieutenants therewth, but I know noe waye to saue them but by compoundinge for all, and y^{t} beinge done, you shall have a note under as many of o^{r} hands as you please for the securinge of soe much as yee buy. And were

yee never soe near or deare to mee (the case consydered) I could not giue yee better council y^n^ to compound for y^r^ estate.

For manetainance of y^r^ self y^e^ Ordinance gives waye to allow a proportion, w^ch^ I shall for my part bee ready to doe, but Collonell Shuttleworth and Collonell Rigby are to join in y^r^ Hundred, wherefore yee must make y^r^ address also to them, and I shall consent to what they shall doe. But what you doe, doe quickly, for y^e^ Souldiers will not be content w^th^ any delaye. For y^e^ defacinge of y^r^ or any bodys howse I shalbee (as I have always beene) uery unwillinge of, and shall not only send such as I think will not doe it, but give speciall command to forbidd it. And soe w^th^ returne of my mothers and wifes respects to you, I rest

29 October 1643. Y^r^ very lovinge Cosen,

RALPH ASSHETON.

I had purposed to haue written to y^r^ sonne, but the Messenger is in such hast as y^t^ I desire yo^u^ will acquaint him with this letter, w^ch^ is an answear to his alsoe.

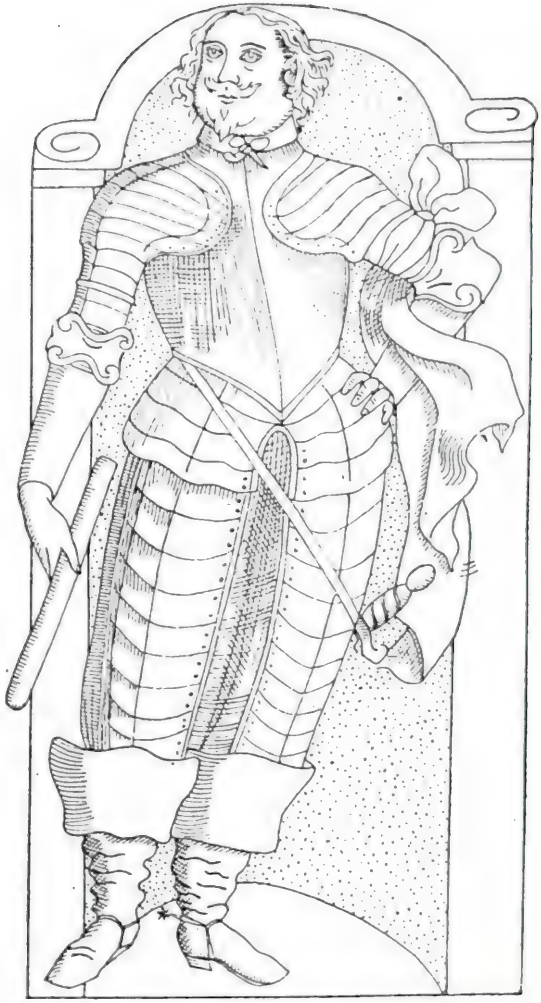
There is a report that since y^e^ consigninge of y^r^ husband's goods to the souldiers there is some conveyed away. If it bee soe, I am afraid they wilbee revenged upon y^r^ howse. Wherefore I

advise yo" by all meanes yee deale truely and ingenuously herein, and if any bee gone, send for them back agayne, for they have an Inventorey, and will expect to fynd all y' is therein exprest.

For my respected Cosen
Mris farington of Worden
these
present."

In the same year Col. Assheton defeated Lord Derby at Whalley. It will be interesting for a moment to glance at Vicar's Chronicle (pt. 1, p. 321), May, 1643, which gives us an account of the transaction, drawn with all the vivid freshness of a contemporary pen. "Certain intelligence came again out of Lancashire that the noble and renowned Manchesterians, under the command of Collonel Ashton, with about 22 hundred horse and foot, marched towards Wiggon, where Collonel Tilsley commanded for the Earl of Derbie with 9 troops of horse and 700 foot. But when brave and victorious Collonel Ashton appeared before the town, the enemies were immediately smitten with astonishment of heart, durst not stand to it, but fled away from thence to Latham, leaving Wiggon to their possession, whereupon the noble Collonel demolisht all the outworks and

1650.
ELIZABETH ASSHETON.
Middleton, Lancashire.



1650.
RALPH ASSHETON, ESQUIRE.
Middleton, Lancashire.

fortifications, burnt the new gates and posts that had been set up, took an oath of the townsmen never to bear arms against the king and parliament, and then this brave Collonel pursued the enemie in their flight to Latham." From Lathom to Prescot, then back to Lathom, thence to Preston, from there to Hornby Castle and the North, the prosperous "Collonel" drove his foes like flying sheep. "The Earl of Derby shortly after sent Collonel Ashton to desire him not to fire his house at Latham, promising him £300 if he would spare it. But the noble Collonel sent him word that he scorned his money or the firing of his house and desired nothing more of him than to meet with him and to give him battell, but he, as I said, ran quite away out of the countie and durst not stay to accept that motion." Such is the honest Puritan's version of these passages, the poor Earl cutting a sorry figure enough, while "brave and victorious Collonel Ashton" chases him to and fro, and has things all his own way. In a moment we will turn to a piece of Royalist literature in which the other side breathes forth its counterblast of hatred, scorn, and satire against the rebel Colonel and his party.

More successes were in store for him, however.

Liverpool, Hornby Castle, and Thurland Castle gave way before him. In January 1644 he suffered a reverse near Middlewich at the hands of Byron, the Royalist, but, a little later, assisted Fairfax in relieving Nantwich. The story of the "Leaguer of Lathom" is not a bright episode in the Roundhead record. The courteous and chivalrous Sir Thomas Fairfax felt much repugnance towards besieging the brave woman, who, with other kindred characters, by their nobility of purpose and conduct, shed such a bright halo over the Royalist cause. He soon let the unpleasant duty devolve upon the shoulders of Col. Assheton and others.

In the "Briefe Journall of the seige against Lathom," from the pen of one of the beleagured defenders, we read that "On Saturday the 24th of February, (1643-4) it was resolved in a councill of the Holy state att Manchester, after many former debates and consultations to the same purpose, that Mr. Ashton of Middleton, Mr Moore of Banck Hall, and Mr. Rigby of Preston (3 Parliam^{t} Colonells) should with all speed come agst Lathom, of which her La^{p} had some broken intelligence." Several days were occupied with the negotiations. "First Sir Thomas Fairfax sent

a letter, and with it an Ordinance of Parliament requiring the Countess of Derby (her husband being then away) to yield up Lathom House to the Parliament upon honourable terms. Her Ladyship, by way of temporising, demanded a week's time to consider; but this was of course refused. Further negotiations passed, and "on Saturday Mr. Ashton and Mr. Rigby vouchsafed to venture their p'sons into Latham House, being authorized by the Generall to propound the following condic'ons. These condic'ons her La^p^ rejected. . . . The two colonells being blancke in their treaty, spent their stay in wise instructions to her La^p^, and unjust accusations of her friends and servants, which shee not only cleared, but nobly and sharply returned upon their religious agents, soe that the grave men, being disappointed both of their witt and malice, returned as empty as they came. On Monday, Mr. Ashton came agayne alone with power to receive her La^p's^ propositions and convey them to his Generall."

Of course the negotiations came to nothing, and Charlotte de la Trémouille delivered her famous ultimatum, "That though a woman and a stranger, divorced from her friends and rob'd of her estate, she was ready to receive their utmost

violence, trusting in God both for protection and deliverance."

It seems a strange step (almost, so to speak, out of proportion to the importance of their immediate design, the capture of Lathom House) which the Colonel and his colleagues decided to take, after a long and fruitless investment of the fortress. A general supplication for the Divine assistance was decreed. The caustic sallies of the satirical and indignant Royalist are worth noting.

"Having hitherto," he says, "met so unprosperous successe in their holy worke, the two Collonells, Mr. Ashton and Mr. Moore, cast a shew of religion over their execrable work, and like those devout men in the poetts, by publike and private supplications call God to assist them in their merciless practizes, to which purpose they issue out com'andes to all their ministers for a general and humble imprecac'on in the following forme: 'To all ministers and Parsons in Lancashire, well-wishers to our successe against Lathom House, theise—Forasmuch as more than ordinary obstrucc'ons have from the beginning of this p'sent service ag' Lathom House interposed our proceedings and yet still remaine, which cannot otherwise be removed nor our successe

furthered but onely by divine assistance, it is therefore our desires to the Ministers and other well affected persons of this county of Lancaster, in publike manner as they shall please, to com'end our case to God, that as wee are appoynted to the s^d^ imployment soe much tending to the settleing of our p'sent peace in theise parts, soe the Almighty would crowne our weak endeavours with speedy successe in the said designe.

RAPH ASHTON.
JOHN MOORE.'

"Ormskirk, Apr. 5, 1644."

Later in the course of the war, Assheton was appointed Commander-in-chief for Lancashire, and engaged the Duke of Hamilton, who met with a severe defeat.

Col. Assheton's Lancashire regiment distinguished itself once more before Preston. Referring to this contingent, Captain Hodgson, who was present at the engagement, says, "A serjeant belonging to them asked me where they should march. I shewed him the party he was to fight, and he, like a true-bred Englishman marched, and I caused the soldiers to follow him, which presently fell upon the enemy, and losing

that wing, the whole army gave ground and fled. The Lancashire men were as stout men as were in the world, and as brave firemen." *(Original Memoirs of the Great Civil War, published by Sir Walter Scott, 1806, p. 118.)*

A little later Assheton took Appleby Castle.

The contact of the army with the Scottish Presbyterians was by this time beginning to shew results which could not have been altogether pleasing to the English Parliamentary leaders. Assheton's force of about 4000 men, when at Clithero, refused to disband, and "professed for the Covenant, and are encouraged by the Clergy." They were with difficulty induced to disperse.

At the close of the war, the Major-General was appointed one of a committee to collect and distribute contributions for the relief of the poor around Wigan and Ashton, many of whom had been reduced to beggary by the devastations of the war.

He died 17th Feb., 1650, at the comparatively early age of 45. The register at Middleton Church shows that "Ralphe Assheton of Middleton Esq. Major Generall was buried 25 February 1650."

"He never," says Mr. Halley *(Lancashire*

Puritanism and Nonconformity) "spared his time, his health, his money, or his friends in defending the cause of constitutional liberty. His incessant and exhausting labours probably hastened his premature death."

Whitaker, in his "History of Whalley," gives some letters written by the Major-General to a friend, Alexander Norris, of Bolton. The first two are as follow :—

"13 Maii, 1645.

"Here is litle newes but y^t^ the King is goinge northward to rayse Chester seidge and recruite his armie y^t^ is weak.

"I pray God to save o^r^ country, and if the countrey will but ryse unanimously and join with S^r^ Will. Brereton it may be done, for Lieuten^t^ Gennerall Cromwell and Major Gennerall Browne follow him w^th^ a great force, and if but a little interrupted will overtake him, and if the Scotch will doe anything for us, mee thinks wee should bee in good safety. The Lord direct all for his glory and for o^r^ poore nation. So prayeth y^r^ loving freind, RAPHE ASSHETON."

"6th Jun. 1648.

"MR. NORRIS,

Since the taking of Leycester, the king

is marched to Harborough yesternight and Syr Thomas Fayrfax called of from the siege of Oxford, so y^t I hope the king will not runn upp and downe the Kingdom as he has done, and have liberty to take townes. Though S^r Thomas bee come from Oxford, yett Major Generall Browne is commanded to block it upp, and will be provyded of forces to doe it. I longe to hear how o^r brethren of Scotland are.

Y^r loving friend,

RAPHE ASSHETON."

The third letter shows that the relations of the commander with his colleagues were not always entirely harmonious.

"2nd Julii, 1645.

"MR. NORRIS,

I rejoice to heare y^t my son's regiment doeth so well before Latham as is represented in y^r letter. You seem much to desyre my comminge downe, but I see few others desyrous of it, and here it is represented y^t Col. Holland and Col. Rigby are the men desyred by the countrey; if y^t be so y^u shall not have mee to come amongst y^u, for I will never joyne w^th them agayne: nevertheless I will here doe the best service I cann for my countrey so y^t ye doe show such respect to my sonn and his

officers and souldiers as may encourage them to continue in y^e^ service. But if Stanley, Booth, Holcroft, Egerton, and such like must be applauded and chiefly observed, I will not stay her but send for my sonn to come to me, for I scorne y^t^ hee shall receave orders from them. I am much displeased at y^e^ commitm^t^ of Col. Birch and Mr. Haryson because I know y^t^ they are honnester and have done more faythefull service for the Parliam^t^ then all the other y^t^ did committ them. I heare the principall occasion of compl^t^ ag^t^ Col. Birch was his opposing the great laye (impost) for the leaguer of Latham, in which he did so well so much service for the countrey (for it was illegal both in matter and manner) y^t^ I wonder the countrey doth not petition the Parliam^t^ for the release of him and the commitm^t^ of all them.

Y^r^ very lovinge frend

RAPHE ASSHETON."

The Major-General's children have been enumerated in the epitaph already quoted. One of his sons is said to have been bewitched to death. "One Utley was tried for bewitching Richard Assheton at the assizes at Lancaster. His guilt *was proved* and he was executed." *(Lancashire Puritanism, etc., I., 287.)*

"The male line of the Assheton family became extinct in 1766 by the death of Sir Ralph Assheton, Bart., without male issue, when Middleton Hall, together with the Manor of Middleton and other adjoining property, came into possession of Harbord Harbord of Gunton, in the county of Norfolk, Esq., afterwards created Baron Suffield of Suffield." *(Chet. Soc. Pub., "Iter Lancastrense." 1485.)*

Middleton Hall no longer exists; it was demolished in 1845, and its site used for building factories upon. It was situated a little to the south of the church, and had capacious barns and outbuildings adjoining. "It was an ancient structure erected at different periods, those parts built anterior to the time of Henry VIII. being of lath and plaster, and the recent and more substantial parts of stone." Such is the account of the home of the Middleton Asshetons given by the Rev. Thomas Corser, in his notes to the "Iter Lancastrense," edited by him for the Chetham Society in 1845; in which volume also is an engraving of Ralph Assheton's brass, reduced from an accurate tracing of an etching by Mr. Thomas Barritt, the Manchester antiquary, in 1782

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